FBIS
DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

14 OCTOBER 1980

Iraq-Iran Conflict

Diplomatic Moves--In statements carried by Baghdad radio's Voice of the Masses, Iraq announced the curtailment of relations with Syria, Libya and the DPRK in the wake of reports that those countries have been sending military equipment to Iran. The statements, issued by an official spokesman of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, did not explicitly state that diplomatic links have been completely severed but said Iraq has ordered "closed" the embassies of the three countries in Baghdad as well as the Iraqi embassies in Damascus, Tripoli and Pyongyang. The spokesman said the Foreign Ministry ordered all Syrian and Libyan diplomats to depart within 48 hours but gave the North Korean staff 72 hours to leave the country. He also said the "rulers" of Syria and Libya have proved they have "no trace of Arabism" and condemned them for "high treason," saying that the peoples of the two countries and those of the entire Arab world would indict them for their actions. In a separate statement, the spokesman charged the DPRK with supplying the Iranians out of "opportunism and self-interest" and condemned Pyongyang for its "hostile stand" against Iraq.

Syria responded with a statement issued by a "responsible source," carried by Damascus radio, saying that Iraq announced the "severance" of relations with Syria as the latest in a "campaign of lies based on the stock of grudges and psychological complexes of the Iraqi regime's leaders." The Syrian statement said Iraq is pursuing a conflict that would lead to "intensive U.S. presence" in the region and to the weakening of the Islamic and Arab opposition to Israel and the Camp David accords. It added that Syria will not be "dragged into a secondary battle" unless it is imposed on it, and it called on the Arab League secretary general to form a committee to investigate the charges and prove the Baghdad regime's "lying, plotting and deluding of Arab public opinion."

Libya reacted to the Iraqi measure with a short statement by the Foreign Secretariat, carried by JANA, expressing "regret" at this "unjustified decision," which, it said, was based on the "tendentious" reporting of Israeli radio and the "hostile" media in its orbit.

Commenting on the Iraqi move in an 11 October press conference by Tehran radio and PARS, President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr denied that Syria and Libya have supplied Iran with weapons and noted that North Korean "deliveries"--unspecified--were made pursuant to contracts signed before the war broke out. Despite an earlier statement to LE MONDE in which he said he believed in the "sincerity of the USSR's neutrality, Bani-Sadr revealed at the press conference that he called in the USSR ambassador to find out if the USSR is actually providing aid to Iraq and to note that, according to "documents" available to Iran, the USSR supplied Tupolev bombers to Iraq with the stipulation that they be used only against Israel. He said that the Soviet Union is therefore responsible for ensuring that these aircraft are not used against Iran. He also stated that Iran does not know if the United States and the Soviet Union are assisting Iraq in "intelligence" matters. Noting that the United States has denied such assistance through the Swiss ambassador in Tehran, he said Iran has the necessary "technical potential" to determine the "authenticity of the views" expressed by the United States, as well as those of the USSR. According to Tehran radio's Arabic service, the Soviet ambassador has assured Bani-Sadr that the USSR is committed to the policy of neutrality in the war and that the Soviet Union is not sending arms to Iraq via the Jordanian port of Al-'Aqabah.

A 9 October Foreign Ministry announcement issued after meetings between Foreign Ministry officials and ambassadors of East European countries, reported by PARS, said that Iran has "clues which clearly show" that both the United States and the Soviet Union were aware in advance of the Iraqi attack but that neither acted to prevent it since they believed themselves to be in a position to "benefit" from it.

In a related development, Ankara radio reported that Foreign Minister Ilter Turkmen has reiterated Turkey's "fully impartial attitude" on the war and its policy of not allowing war materiel destined for either of the parties to transit Turkish territory.

An Iranian Foreign Ministry statement, carried by Tehran radio, confirmed Iran will send representatives to participate in the UN Security Council discussion of the conflict, but it "categorically denied" Iran has asked the council take up the matter. In his 11 October press conference, Bani-Sadr said he will not personally attend the session since he has to attend to domestic matters which he considers "more important" than the UN deliberations.

Karachi radio reported on 13 October that Islamic Conference Secretary General Habib Chatti will be visiting Baghdad and Tehran within the next 48 hours to continue the mediation efforts he initiated with President Ziaul Haq. However, an earlier SPA report said that while Iraq had given the go-ahead for Chatti's visit, a reply was still being awaited from Iran.

According to KUNA, PLO leader Salah Khalaf, in an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN, said the PLO is preparing a plan to end the war. Khalaf said the plan requires the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Iranian territory and negotiations between the two countries with the participation of a "third party." Khalaf also stated that the Soviet Union has asked the PLO to continue its efforts to find a way to resolve the crisis.

Iranian Defense Council--In a 12 October decree carried by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Khomeyni ordered that the Supreme Defense Council should supervise "all matters related to the war." The decree gave the council the authority to make military decisions affecting the armed forces in the war zones, to supervise the information effort, including censoring anything bearing on the war to be carried by the mass media, and to direct the foreign policy of the country as it relates to defense matters. The decree also stated that the Defense Council is "dutybound" to assign representatives to the battle area so that decisions can be taken in the field without delay. According to the decree, the Majlis should have one member permanently assigned to participate in the council's deliberations and two deputies prepared to take part when the military advisers to the ayatollah, Hojjat ol-Eslam va Moslemin Khamene'i and Dr Mostafa Chamran, are absent. The council is constituted on the basis of Principle 112, Section 3, Paragraph C of the Constitution, published by the Tehran TIMES, which gives the leader of the nation the power to form a Defense Council comprising the president, prime minister, defense minister, chief of the joint staff, commander in chief of the Revolution Guards Corps and two advisers of his choice. According to Tehran radio, the Majlis elected 'Ali Akbar Pavaresh as its permanent representative on the council and Majlis Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani and Mohammad Montazeri to fill in when necessary.

In a press conference reported by Tehran radio, Prime Minister Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i said that the Supreme Defense Council had been formed at the beginning of the war (PARS reported that it convened for the first time only on 14 October) and that "none" of Bani-Sadr's actions have been undertaken without its knowledge. Raja'i denied, however, that the formation of the council had undermined the powers of the president. President Bani-Sadr, discussing the functions of the Defense Council in an interview carried by Tehran radio, said the council will make his job as president and commander in chief "very easy." He said he had proposed this role for the Defense Council "several days" ago in talks with Ayatollah Khomeyni, during which he stressed the need to coordinate military policy in the war zones, centralize the foreign policymaking process, control the information effort and ensure the morale of the troops. According to Bani-Sadr, Khomeyni's decree was a result of his proposal.

Military Situation--Baghdad radio's Voice of the Masses announced that during the night of 10-11 October Iraqi armor and infantry crossed the Karun River in the first operation of its kind in the history of the Iraqi Army and began their advance on Abadan. The radio claimed Iraqi forces sustained no losses during the operation but captured "hundreds" and killed "scores" of Iranian soldiers. Subsequent INA reports said that Iraqi engineers constructed several pontoon bridges across the river and that consequently Iraqi forces were tightening their grip on Khorramshahr and had been able to seize positions along the oil pipeline linking Abadan with Ahvaz and Tehran. Despite claims by Ayatollah Khalkhali, reported by Tehran radio's Arabic service, citing the newspaper SOBH AZADEGAN, that the Iraqis who had tried to cross the river were completely wiped out, PARS reported that Iraqi troops penetrated the "residential" areas of Abadan and the city's refinery on 11 October. A further PARS report said Iraqi artillery bombarded Abadan.

On other fronts, Baghdad radio's Voice of the Masses reported that Iraqi troops are "tightening their grip" on "vast areas" of Ahvaz, and claimed that Dezful is "living its last moments." According to INA, Iraqi forces are also consolidating control of the Sis, Bagh, Salman and Nandal mountains in the northern sector after having seized the heights overlooking the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab Basin, and they have taken up "fixed positions" in the cities of Qasr-e Shirin and Khosrowvi. An Iranian Joint Staff communique, carried by Tehran radio, claimed a victory in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region, but it also reported Iraqi ground attacks on Ahvaz and Naft-e Safid and surface-to-surface missile bombardment of Susangerd.

Baghdad radio's Persian service warned the residents of Ahvaz and Dezful to evacuate their cities in order to avoid being killed by surface-to-surface missiles and "heavy bombs." However, Tehran radio reported Prime Minister Raja'i as saying that this is a trick the Iranian people will not fall for and that they will continue to stand together in the cities to defend themselves. Another Iranian Joint Staff communique, carried by Tehran radio, warned that Iraqi bombardment of the civilian populations of Khorramshahr, Abadan, Ahvaz, Dezful, Shush and Shustar will be answered by similar Iranian bombing of Iraqi cities if the Iraqi military persists in hitting nonmilitary targets. Nevertheless, in the last several days Iraqi General Command communiques, carried by Baghdad radio's Voice of the Masses, have reported continued Iranian bombing of residential areas in Mosul, As-Sulaymaniyah, At-Ta'mim, Al-'Amarah, Qayyarah, Baghdad, Shaykh Sa'd, Maysan, Irbil, and Al-Kut. The communiques also reported Iraqi air attacks on military targets in Khuzestan as well as on the city of Esfahan and Khark Island.

According to AFP, citing the MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY, Iran is contracting to buy aircraft fuel, diesel and fuel oil to be delivered to the Lavan Island terminal in the southern end of the Persian Gulf. AFP said the magazine did not say whom Iran was buying the petroleum products from.

The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-QABAS reported that about 100 Jordanian military advisers have started training Iraqi troops in the use of American weapons captured from the Iranians. Iraq earlier announced the capture of five tons of American military equipment in the Dezful area.

American Hostages

In an interview carried by Tehran radio, Prime Minister Raja'i brought up the hostages issue, saying that the "key" to the question is in the hands of the United States but that it is pursuing its own interests without regard to the fate of the hostages. He said the only solution to the problem is for the United States to "recognize the rights" of the Iranian people and accept the conditions laid down by Ayatollah Khomeyni and the Majlis. President Bani-Sadr, in his 11 October press conference, said there is "no need" for contacts with the United States over the issue since the Majlis' conditions will be communicated to the U.S. Government "and once they are accepted they will be carried out."

Jordan

According to Amman radio, an official source in the Hashemite court announced that Jordan and the USSR have "mutually agreed" to "postpone" for "some time" King Husayn's scheduled mid-October visit to the USSR and that a new date will be agreed upon later. Prime Minister Mudar Badran, in an interview in the Saudi paper AL-JAZIRAH, reported by SPA, said the postponement was due to "present conditions" in the region.

King Husayn paid a visit to Saudi Arabia on 11 and 12 October. Amman radio reported Prime Minister Badran as saying that the views of Saudi Arabia and Jordan expressed in talks during this visit were "identical on the issue of support for fraternal Iraq's historic and legitimate rights of sovereignty over its land and waters." Monitored Saudi reportage on the visit, however, carried no such reference. In comments made to SPA, Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said only that the two sides made a "concentrated review" of the conflict within the framework of an "overall objective evaluations" of the war and its various "dimensions."

Saudi Arabia

In an interview with AL-JAZIRAH, reported by SPA, Minister of Defense Prince ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, commenting on the "lies and fabrications" circulating about the Saudi use of AWACS, said that Saudi Arabia does not "work in secrecy" and that U.S.-Saudi "friendship" is one of "equality and respect," not of "alliances and commitment." He went on to say that the recent visit of the U.S. chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen David Jones, had "nothing to do" with the current situation in the region and was part of a regular exchange of visits between officials of the two countries.

Syria

A joint statement issued on 10 October at the conclusion of President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to the Soviet Union, carried by Damascus radio, said that Syria and the USSR signed the friendship and cooperation treaty out of a desire to elevate their relations to a "new, higher level," that the two countries will in the future attach "major importance" to consolidating their "political relations" and that "decisions" were made on the "issue of continuing the Soviet Union's aid to Syria in order to further strengthen its defensive capabilities." The statement also condemned overall U.S. Middle East policy, "illegitimate" Israeli measures in the occupied Arab territories and the Egyptian leadership's "capitulatory scheme," and it pledged to continue efforts to find a solution to the Middle East problem on the basis of ensuring the Palestinian people's rights. The statement noted that President al-Asad had advised the USSR of the intention of Syria and Libya to achieve "comprehensive unity and cooperation" and that the Soviet Union "highly appreciated" these efforts. According to the statement, both sides declared "solidarity" with the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. No mention was made of the Iraq-Iran war, but the statement said that the two countries "highly appreciated" the role of the Iranian revolution in deposing the shah and expelling U.S. "imperialist" influence and that they support Iran's right to determine its destiny "without any foreign interference." The statement went on to "denounce" U.S. economic pressure on Iran.

Egypt

In a statement published in AL-AHRAM, reported by MENA, Chief of Staff Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah said Egypt is prepared to send troops to Saudi Arabia and other gulf states if they request assistance to defend themselves against "Soviet intervention." Abu Ghazalah also said that he hopes the idea of forming an Arab naval fleet will be realized and that such a force would be a "great boost to our interests as well as the West's."

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MUBARAK TO ASK FOR FIRMER U.S. POSITION ON SOVIETS

NC130903 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 13 Oct 80

[Text] An Egyptian diplomatic source in Washington has stated that during his meeting with President Carter tomorrow, Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak will ask that the United States adopt firmer attitude toward the increasing Soviet influence in the Middle East.

The source said that the message that President as-Sadat sent with Mubarak to President Carter called for a firmer U.S. position against the serious Soviet infiltration in the Middle East and gulf.

Departure for Washington

NC110854 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0750 GMT 11 Oct 80

[Text] Cairo, 11 Oct (MENA)--Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Cairo this morning on his way to Washington on a 4-day visit to the United States, during which he will hand a message from President Anwar as-Sadat to U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

During his visit to the United States, Vice President Mubarak will also hold talks with U.S. officials on the situation in the Middle East, the autonomy negotiations and the U.S. role in eliminating the obstacles placed by Israel in the path of the autonomy negotiations. He will discuss the U.S. role during the upcoming tripartite summit conference.

The Egyptian delegation to the talks, which will begin Tuesday in Washington to prepare for the tripartite summit conference, also left on the same plane. The delegation consists of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali and [Foreign Ministry Under Secretary] Dr Usamah al-Baz.

GHALI SAYS WORKING PAPER TO BE PREPARED AT MEETINGS

NC101331 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 10 Oct 80

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has stated that the main aim of the meetings of the Egyptian, U.S. and Israeli delegations in Washington on Tuesday and Wednesday is to make a general assessment of the results of the autonomy talks so far, to locate the points of disagreement regarding the main issue and to prepare a working paper for submission to the tripartite summit scheduled to convene after the U.S. elections.

Ghali said that if no agreement is reached on a working paper, the negotiations will continue through new meetings or other committees in order to overcome the difficulties and obstacles and to prepare a joint working paper.

Ghali said that during these meetings Egypt will seek to achieve the principles that President Anwar as-Sadat stressed: the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territory, including Arab Jerusalem, and the illegality of the settlements.

Ghali said that Husni Mubarak will hold talks with the U.S. officials on bilateral relations and boosting the autonomy talks. In his statement to our radio correspondent Ghali further said that the confrontation between Iraq and Iran indicates the importance of achieving peace in the Middle East as well as the need to continue work to achieve it.

AS-SADAT ADDRESSES JUDICIARY HIGHER COUNCIL 11 OCT

NC111622 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Oct 80

[Text] During his meeting with the Higher Council of the Judicial Bodies today President Anwar as-Sadat said: Our battle today is proceeding in three directions. Toward the building of peace, democracy and prosperity. As for building peace, we are going ahead on this road and, not having stopped after regaining 80 percent of Sinai, are on our way to regaining the remaining part on 25 November 1982.

With regard to the autonomy negotiations between us and Israel, these negotiations have stumbled. However, the peace process must go ahead even after the whole world and the UN Security Council condemned Israel for its measures on Jerusalem. The United States' abstention in the vote at the Security Council is considered an approval of this condemnation.

He added: We may ask: Who brought about Israel's isolation in the world, and who prompted the foreign embassies in Jerusalem to move to Tel Aviv? It was Egypt with its peace initiative and its call for peace. Had it not been for this, the whole world would not have supported Egypt. Israel must in the end submit to the call for peace, because it reflects a world consensus.

With regard to building democracy, the president said: The government did not use martial law, despite its existence in the past. When the time came for the abolishment of martial law, it was done.

The president said in this meeting that building democracy in Egypt has been completed, and the institutions must have asurances in carrying out their responsibilities: The state is intent on safeguarding the immunity and independence of the judiciary so the judges can carry out their message. The prosperity of the state will not be achieved if there is no justice and supremecy of the law.

The president added: The savings of Egyptians residing abroad increased by 500 million pounds within 1 month, as a result of the stability in Egypt.

As for building prosperity, this is the responsibility of us all. We are making plans for the future with all seriousness and speed.

The president added: Our income from oil this year reached $2 billion, and our income from the canal will reach $1.2 billion compared with $400 million in 1975. He said: Priority in our plans this year will be given to the production and distrubution of food.

AL-AHRAM REPORTS U.S. RDF TO HOLD EXERCISES WITH EGYPT

NC110808 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0745 GMT 11 Oct 80

[Text] Cairo, 11 Oct (MENA)--Quoting U.S. Defense Department sources, the newspaper AL-AHRAM reports today that a battalion of the Rapid Deployment Force consisting of 1,400 soldiers will hold joint exercises with the Egyptian forces in the middle of November. According to these sources, the joint exercises will last 2 weeks.

IRAQ CLOSES EMBASSIES IN DAMASCUS, TRIPOLI, PYONGYANG

Syria, Libya Closings

JN110607 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0300 GMT 11 Oct 80

["Text" of statement by Iraqi Foreign Ministry official spokesman on 11 October]

[Text] It has been confirmed that the Syrian and Libyan regimes have colluded with the Persian aggressors by supplying them with arms and hardware and by erecting an air bridge linking Tehran with Damascus and Tripoli in order to supply the Magian racist clique in Tehran with the means to continue the aggression against Iraq, the eastern flank of the Arab nation. Therefore, the government of the republic of Iraq has decided to close the embassies of the Syrian and Libyan regimes in Baghdad and all establishments belonging to them as well as to close the Iraqi embassies in Damascus and Tripoli.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry has conveyed an official memorandum to the above-mentioned embassies requesting their closure and the departure of their staff members within 48 hours.

Iraq, which wages today, in deep faith, an honorable and brave battle on behalf of the Arab nation and in defense of its sovereignty, honor and rights, is confident that the masses of the Arab nation support it in condemning the treasonous stands of the Syrian and Libyan regimes, which in all their political practices have co-existed with opportunism and humiliation, thus exploiting Arab sovereignty and the supreme pan-Arab interests in their cheap competition both inside their countries and in achieving trivial benefits.

The rulers of Syria and Libya, who chose to stand with Iraq's enemies in its war against the racist Persians, prove that they have no trace of Arabism, that they do not represent our Arab people in Syria and Libya and that they have no connections to the Arab nation, its glorious history and great will for liberation and freedom.

In taking this measure, Iraq condemns the two regimes in Damascus and Tripoli for high treason. Iraq is fully confident that our Arab people in Syria and Libya and throughout the Arab homeland will speak their just word against these treasonous rulers.

Closure of DPRK Embassy

JN110637 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0300 GMT 11 Oct 80

["Text" of 11 October 1980 statement by Iraqi Foreign Ministry official spokesman on closure of Iraqi Embassy in Pyongyang]

[Text] The North Korean Government has supplied the Persian aggressors with arms and hardware out of motives of opportunism and self-interest--an act contrary to all ties of friendship and cooperation existing between the two countries and in disregard of Iraq's legitimate right to defend its sovereignty, rights and national security.

Although the Iraqi Government has acquainted the North Korean Government with the facts of the situation and cautioned it against continuing to back the Persian aggressors, the North Korean Government has continued its hostile stand. The Government of the Republic of Iraq has therefore been compelled to close the North Korean Embassy and all its establishments in Baghdad and to close the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Pyongyang.

The Foreign Ministry has conveyed a memorandum to the North Korean Embassy in Baghdad requesting the closure of the embassy and its departments and the departure of all its staff members within 72 hours.

In taking this measure, the Government of the Republic of Iraq holds the North Korean Government responsible for harming and forsaking the relations of friendship existing between the two countries.

SADDAM HUSAYN SAYS ARMY READY TO ACHIEVE MORE VICTORIES

JN131944 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Oct 80

[Excerpt] President Saddam Husayn visited the village of At-Ta'min in the Babylon Governorate this afternoon. The president asked the citizens about the nature of their work and conditions in light of the victories which our heroic army has achieved against the racist Persians.

His excellency conversed with the citizens of the village, affirming that our army is ready to achieve more victories over the Arab nation's enemies.

The president added that our army can easily trample its enemies but we hope that, although they have been excessive in their errors against our people, the Iranian rulers will return to their senses.

The citizens expressed their happiness over the president's inspection and his sharing with them their happiness over the victories achieved by our heroic army.

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES CEASE-FIRE, USSR-SYRIA TREATY

LD140854 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0712 GMT 14 Oct 80

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Oct (KUNA)--Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi said today in a press statement that Iraq is certain [words indistinct] in its present war with Iran and that it will not stop the fighting until its adversary accepts Iraq's conditions, regardless of how long it takes. In a statement published by Kuwait's AL-ANBA, he says that Iraq is prepared to cease fire if Iran accepts her demands, namely, the restoration of territory it occupied some years ago, recognition of Iraq's sovereignty over the whole of the Shatt al-'Arab River and noninterference in Iraq's internal affairs.

Dr Hammadi added that "according to the Iraqi plan, the military operations taking place will not cease at all, given Iran's refusal to abide by the Security Council resolution on a cease-fire." He took issue with those who predict a lengthy war and who subscribe to the statements of the Iranian leaders that the war will continue as long as Iraqi forces remain on Iranian territory. He said, "reality will impose itself upon them, and if they do not come to an understanding through common sense they will come to it through force." The Iraqi minister said that his country also wants "to end the Iranian nightmare on the eastern frontiers and the unspoken but bigger danger to the safety of Iraq and the Arab countries because of Iran's position as a dominant power [words indistinct] region and its interests."

Dr Hammadi once again asked the major powers to remain neutral in the conflict raging in the north of the gulf. He said that "every major power who supplies Iran with weapons will be considered against us and against the Arab countries."

He said that he informed U.S. Secretary of State Edmund Muskie at a meeting at the United Nations earlier this month that the best thing that the United States could do is to remain neutral, not to intervene and to remain committed to the statements made by its officials. Dr Hammadi made the first Iraqi comment about the treaty of friendship and cooperation signed by the Soviet Union and Syria last week. Syria opposes Iraq in its war with Iran. He said that Baghdad sees no change in the relations between the Soviet Union and Iraq, which have been linked by a treaty of friendship and cooperation since 1971. He added that "the treaty itself is Syria's internal affair. In any case the signing of the treaty does not constitute any danger, because our treaty with the Soviet Union is older and much firmer than the Syrian-Soviet treaty."

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUES 10-13 OCT

Communique No 70

JN1017[illegible] Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1723 GMT 10 Oct 80

["Text" of Communique No 70 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 10 October 1980]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

This afternoon, our armed forces continued to destroy the enemy in their operational sectors and to strike at the enemy's concentrations and economic targets deep inside his territory, inflicting the following grave losses in life and equipment on him:

I. The land forces:

A. Known enemy losses:

1. In lives: 32 dead
2. In equipment: Two tanks, four personnel carriers and two armored vehicles destroyed.
3. Several piles of enemy equipment destroyed or captured.

B. Our losses:

1. In personnel: 3 martyred, 11 wounded.
2. In equipment: Three vehicles and one personnel carrier destroyed.

II. The air force: Enemy aircraft raided civilian targets today. Our air defenses intercepted them, forcing them to flee as follows:

A. At 0835 today enemy planes raided Al-'Amarah, aiming at residential areas.

B. At 0925 today enemy planes raided Mosul and Qayyarah, aiming at residential areas and civilian targets.

C. At 1029 today one enemy plane raided Baghdad, aiming at residential areas.

D. Our ground defenses downed an enemy plane in the Shaykh Sa'd area of Maysan Governorate.

E. We sustained no losses as a result of the enemy raids.

F. Our planes attacked enemy military and economic targets, inflicting the following grave losses in life and equipment on him:

1. The Shushtar bridge was strafed and destroyed.
2. The Dez Dam railroad station in Dezful sector was strafed and destroyed.
3. An iron bridge, a railroad and a concentration of enemy vehicles northeast of Dezful were strafed, inflicting direct losses [as heard] on them.
4. The trans-Indian Ocean ground satellite station in Asadabad was hit.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 10 October 1980.

Communique No 71

JN111012 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0928 GMT 11 Oct 80

["Text" of Communique No 71 issued by Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 11 October 1980]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

Last night and this morning, formations of our armed forces attacked the enemy in the operational sector as its forces tried to intercept our forward units. Our blows forced the enemy to withdraw and inflicted heavy losses in lives and equipment, as follows:

I. The ground forces:

A. Known enemy losses:

1. In personnel: 20 killed.
2. In equipment: Three antitank guns and their vehicles and two vehicles with their crew of Khomeyni guards were destroyed and an enemy fuel station was set on fire.
3. In planes: Two aircraft were shot down in the southern sector of operations, one of them a helicopter.

B. Our losses:

1. In personnel: Three martyrs and eight wounded.
2. In equipment: Two tanks and one personnel carrier were destroyed.

II. The air forces:

A. This morning enemy planes raided residential areas and were repulsed and forced to flee by our ground defenses, as follows:

1. At 0648 enemy planes raided residential areas in Ash-Shuwayyib in Maysan Governorate.
2. At 0730 enemy planes raided (Azabi) in Irbil.

B. Our losses from enemy raids: 4 martyrs, 12 wounded--all civilians from Maysan Governorate.

C. This morning, our planes raided enemy military and economic targets and inflicted on the enemy heavy losses in lives and equipment:

1. Our planes raided enemy units in the Abadan area.
2. Our planes raided a plant near Ahvaz, setting it on fire.

All our planes returned safely to base.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 11 October 1980.

Further on our Communique No 71 issued on 11 October 1980:

1. Our valiant forces shelled Kharg Island last night to destroy the two air and naval bases and the main oil-loading port on this island. The blows were direct and punishing.

2. Last night and this morning, the first operation in the history of the Iraqi Army of crossing a water barrier was accomplished. The Karun River was crossed with armored forces and an infantry force to besiege Abadan and destroy enemy forces across the Karun River, thus safeguarding the Shatt al-'Arab and navigation in it from enemy forces.

Communique No 72

JN111727 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1705 GMT 11 Oct 80

[Communique No 72 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 11 October 1980]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

The units of our army--the army of the Arab nation, the army of the Ba'th, the army of Saddam Husayn--continue their victories, inflicting the disgrace of defeat on the Magian enemy and adding another great feat to the feats of our valiant army.

At 1800 on the night of 10-11 October, Al-Qadisiyah forces crossed the Karun River in accordance with accurate calculations. This took the enemy by surprise and made him lose his mind.

His known losses today were as follows:

A. In personnel: 50 dead.
B. Taken captive: 536 military captives.
C. Charlatan Khomeyni guards taken captive: 20.

II. [as heard] In equipment:

A. One F-5 plane.
B. One Phantom plane.
C. Two helicopters with anti-tank weapons.
D. Three 175-mm guns.
E. Various transmission stations.

III. Material Losses:

A. Oil pipelines between Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr] and Ahvas were blown up.
B. Stockpiles of fuel and ammunition were destroyed.
C. A large number of military and civilian vehicles were seized.

Our losses were as follows: 2 tanks and 2 small vehicles were destroyed, 2 [soldiers] were martyred and 11 wounded.

One of the officers who was captured said that the number of those killed inside Al-Muhammarah and Abadan is well over 1,000 and that the number of the injured is larger.

Thus, our victorious forces have turned Al-Muhammarah into a graveyard for the Magian racists. Long live our leader Field Marshal Saddam Husayn. Forward to other victories.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 11 October 1980.

Communique No 73

JN121033 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0952 GMT 12 Oct 80

[Communique No 73 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 12 October 1980]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

Our valiant armed forces last night and this morning continued their advance in the southern sector of the theater of operations. They chased the retreating enemy remnants in the Abadan area, inflicting heavy losses on them in lives and equipment. Our victorious units continue to deal blows to the enemy prior to overrunning it and cleansing Abadan of its defeated remnants.

I. The ground forces:

A. Enemy known losses:

1. In personnel: A large number of killed and wounded.
2. In equipment: Five tanks, three vehicles, three troop carriers, two missile launchers [qa'idayayn] and one gun were destroyed.
3. A large quantity of ammunition and missiles was seized, as well as an 8-inch gun, a vehicle and trailer loaded with ammunition and a vehicle with a 106-mm gun.
4. Two aircraft were shot down in the southern sector of the theater of operations, one of which was a helicopter.

B. Our losses:

1. In personnel: Six martyrs and 14 wounded.
2. In equipment: Three vehicles were burned; one armored car and one 106-mm gun were destroyed.

II. The air forces:

A. Enemy aircraft yesterday afternoon and this morning carried out air raids on civilian and economic targets. Our air defenses intercepted them, forcing them to flee as follows:

1. At 1130 and 1145 on 11 October 1980 they raided civilian targets in Al-'Uzayr in Maysan Governorate.
2. At 1022 and 1500 on 11 October 1980 they raided As-Sulaymaniyah, aiming at residential areas and civilian installations.
3. At 0750 this morning, 12 October 1980, they raided As-Sulaymaniyah, aiming at civilian installations and residential areas.
4. At 1000 on 12 October 1980, they raided Maysan, aiming at residential areas in the 'Ali al-Gharbi quarter.

B. One enemy aircraft was shot down this morning in Maysan governorate.

C. Our losses as a result of enemy air raids:

1. In personnel: 18 wounded and 1 martyr in As-Sulaymaniyah, all of them civilians.
2. Some civilian installations are damaged.

D. Our aircraft yesterday afternoon and this morning raided enemy military and economic targets, inflicting heavy losses on them as follows:

1. On 11 October 1980 they raided Ahvaz airport and destroyed three helicopters and the airport.
2. On the same day, they raided enemy units in the Ahvaz sector and destroyed a number of enemy armored cars and vehicles.
3. This morning, 12 October 1980, they bombed Bandar Shahpur [Bandar-e Khomeyni] port, destroying part of its installations and burning the oil refinery in it.

All our planes returned safely to their bases, with the exception of one plane, which went down yesterday in enemy territory. We consider the Iranian authorities responsible for safeguarding its pilot.

[Signed] The Armed Forced General Command, 12 October 1980.

Communique No 74

JN121728 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1705 GMT 12 Oct 80

[Communique No 74 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 12 October]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

Our valiant forces this afternoon continued to strike heavily at the collapsing enemy in the Abadan area and deep inside his territory, inflicting heavy losses in life and equipment. Our valiant forces are continuing their advance toward their targets with confidence and high morale.

I. The ground forces:

A. Known enemy losses:

1. In personnel: 43 killed.
2. In equipment: 10 tanks, 4 vehicles and 2 missile launchers were destroyed and burned.
3. One vehicle carrying Khomeyni guards was destroyed.
4. Two vehicles carrying enemy soldiers were destroyed.
5. One helicopter in the southern sector of the theater of operations was shot down.

B. Our losses:

1. In personnel: 8 martyrs and 16 wounded.
2. In equipment: one tank was destroyed, another damaged, and one vehicle was destroyed.

II. The air forces.

A. Enemy aircraft carried out two raids at noon today on civilian targets. Our ground defenses intercepted them, forcing them to flee as follows:

1. At 0920 enemy planes raided Waynah, northwest of Mosul.
2. At 1100 enemy planes raided Al-Kut, aiming at residential areas.

B. Our losses as a result of enemy air raids: Three were wounded in Al-Kut.

C. Our planes this afternoon launched two raids on Esfahan. The first against the Esfahan airport and the second against the Esfahan oil refinery. Our planes scored direct and fatal hits on both targets.

Our planes returned safely to the homeland.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 12 October 1980

Communique No 75

JN130959 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0950 GMT 13 Oct 80

["Text" of Communique No 75 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 13 October 1980]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Last night and this morning, our armed forces continued to destroy the collapsing enemy forces in the operational sectors and to advance in the Abadan area, dealing strong blows and inflicting heavy losses in lives and equipment on the enemy.

I. The ground forces:

A. Known enemy losses:

1. In personnel: 38 killed.
2. In equipment: Nine tanks, five vehicles, three personnel carriers and one rocket launcher were destroyed and burned.
3. A number of vehicles carrying Khomeyni guards were destroyed.
4. An oil pumping station, pipelines, oil reservoirs and a powerstation in (Melihat) in the Ahvaz sector were destroyed.
5. Two helicopters in the southern sector of the theater of operations were shot down.

B. Our losses: In personnel: 3 martyred, 14 wounded.

II. The air force:

At 0720 today enemy aircraft raided the Haj 'Umran area, aiming at residential areas. Our ground resistance intercepted them, forcing them to flee:

Our losses: One civilian martyred and one wounded.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 13 October 1980

Communique No 76

JN131718 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1707 GMT 13 Oct 80

[Communique No 76 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 13 October 1980]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

This afternoon, our victorious armed forces continued to strike at and destroy the enemy's pockets everywhere in the operations sectors, inflicting grave losses in life and equipment on them:

I. The ground forces:

A. Known enemy losses:

1. In personnel: 43 killed.
2. In equipment: two tanks and one personnel carrier were destroyed.
3. Several piles of military equipment were destroyed and burned.
4. Two planes--a Phantom in the southern sector and a helicopter in the northern sector of the theater of operations--were shot down.

B. Our losses:

1. In personnel: 4 martyred, 13 wounded.
2. In equipment: one vehicle was burned and another damaged.

II. The air force:

Our aircraft this afternoon raided and destroyed the (Masraf Malaw) bridge and fuel reservoirs in the Dezful sector.

Our aircraft returned safely to the homeland.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 13 October.

Communique No 77

JN141020 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0955 GMT 14 Oct 80

["Text" of Communique No 77 issued by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command on 14 October]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

Last night and this morning, the units of our victorious armed forces attacked the enemy in the operational sector deep in Iranian territory, destroying the collapsing enemy pockets and inflicting heavy losses in lives and equipment on them:

I. The ground forces:

A. Enemy losses:

1. In personnel: 67 killed, 92 wounded.
2. In equipment: One tank, two personnel carriers, four vehicles, three guns of various types and three missile launchers were burned and destroyed.
3. Last night, one of our forward units raided military installations in Dehloran, northwest of Dezful, completely destroying a military airport and two tanks and setting fire to 15 military vehicles and stockpiled arms and equipment left behind by the fleeing enemy. Our unit returned safely to base.
4. One helicopter in the southern sector of the theater of operations was shot down.

B. Our losses:

1. In personnel: 7 martyred, 23 wounded.
2. In equipment: Three vehicles were destroyed and one damaged.

II. The air force:

This morning, our planes raided enemy military and economic targets, inflicting heavy losses as follows:

A. A railroad station on the Dezful-Tehran axis was hit and destroyed.

B. The powerstation at the Rezashah Dam was bombed and destroyed.

All our planes returned safely to the homeland.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 14 October 1980.

GROUND FORCES ADVANCE ACROSS KARUN RIVER

Qutaybah Force Commander's Statement

JN101450 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 10 Oct 80

[Text] Al-Muhammarah, Arabistan, 10 Oct (INA)--Today, the Iraqi forces tightened their grip on the Iranian Forces besieged in Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr].

The INA correspondent said that the tightening of the Iraqi forces' fist around the city was due to the violent artillery shelling of the Iranian forces' concentrations and the commandos' attacks on the remnants of the Iranian forces in some positions.

The correspondent cites the staff colonel commanding the advancing Qutaybah forces as saying that the tightening of the seige around the city is being carried out in accordance with a plan.

The commander pointed out that the Persian forces have failed to strike at the units. He added that a 106-mm self-propelled gun was destroyed and towed to the Iraqi positions. He said that five helicopters tried to strike at our positions but they were forced to flee. He added that the Iranian counterattacks have completely failed.

Advance Toward River

JN121523 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1515 GMT 12 Oct 80

[Text] Al-Muhammarah, 12 Oct (INA)--The Salah ad-Din forces in the southern sector today managed to capture a position 7 km from the Karun River.

The INA team in the sector cited military sources as saying that the Iraqi military units are continuing their thrust along the (Al-Qusalybah)-Al-Muhammarah axis toward the main road. Iraqi units continue to cross the river by means of several pontoon bridges erected to support the troops in their advance eastward.

The team said that the Qutaybah forces this morning managed to cordon off the Iranian camp of Sardej, the largest Iranian camp in the area.

An Iraqi officer has told the INA team that the Iraqi forces that are besieging the camp today managed to destroy six tanks with their crews, three 106-mm guns, a missile launcher and one truck and captured a large number of Iranian soldiers.

Construction of Bridges

JN131611 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1550 GMT 13 Oct 80

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Oct (INA)--The Iraqi military engineering force today erected more new bridges across the Karun River, which was the scene of a crossing operation by the Iraqi forces last Friday to tighten their grip around all the approaches to Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr].

The INA team in the southern sector has reported that special military units have seized new positions along the strategic oil pipeline which links Abadan with Tehran via Ahvaz.

The staff brigadier general commanding the Salah ad-Din forces told INA, upon the INA team's return from the other bank of the Karun River, that his forces now completely control the general military situation there.

The team saw Iraqi soldiers swimming in the waters of the Karun at a time when the sound of heavy artillery and missiles was clearly heard. The Iraqi forces fired missiles and heavy artillery against the remnants of the Iranian Army in order to pave the way for the advancing Iraqi troops.

INA Report on Crossing

JN111549 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Oct 80

[Text] Brother compatriots: In a unique crossing operation which began at sunset yesterday and ended with first light today, the Salah ad-Din forces in the southern sector managed to cross Karun River, thus cutting off the supply lines to Khomeyni guards from Abadan. Our forces also tightened their siege of Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr].

This operation, which did not take more than a few hours, was prepared by engineering groups that set up a pontoon bridge. Other special engineering units levelled the earth of the muddy banks and paved the way for the crossing of our armored vehicles. In short surprise attacks on the enemy, these forces were able to destroy large amounts of enemy equipment, to kill scores of his soldiers and Khomeyni guards and to capture a large number of Khomeyni soldiers and guards.

Two helicopters, flying at low altitude, tried to strike at our advanced units, but our ground defense dealt with them in the battlefield and soon they were seen burning. The enemy has not yet tried to approach our advanced forces.

Despite the difficult geographical conditions, our forces were able to achieve sweeping victory over Khomeyni remnants after crossing the Karun River.

In a statement to the INA mission in the advanced Iraqi positions on the Karun River, the staff brigadier general commanding the Salah ad-Din forces stressed that his forces have achieved a great victory that will force the besieged enemy pockets in Al-Muhammarah to surrender or be wiped out. He stressed that hundreds of enemy personnel have been captured and that our forces sustained no losses during the daring crossing operation. He said: Our valiant forces enjoy high morale and are determined to continue carrying out any task entrusted to them by the command. He explained that, militarily speaking, the operation took the enemy by surprise, achieved all its objectives and managed to place the public highway that links Al-Muhammarah with Abadan under the full control of our advancing forces.

The staff lieutenant colonel commanding the storming force stressed that his forces had not met with any resistance worth mentioning because the forces and unrevolutionary guards of racist Khomeyni took to their heels while scores of them were either killed or captured and much equipment was destroyed. He explained that the plan for crossing the Karun River had been accurately prepared a short time before. When this plan was carried out, a sweeping victory, which made the enemy lose its senses, was achieved.

He added that the enemy, in a desperate attempt to impede the advance of our forces, sent helicopters to the battlefield, but our forces managed to down two of them. He expressed his conviction that his forces, which took positions on the other bank of the river, will be decisive in wiping out the racist Persians in their pockets in Al-Muhammarah or in gaining their surrender.

The INA mission there toured the theater of operations and saw the Persian dead and captured, who were evacuated from the battlefield after being photographed. Meanwhile, enemy light and heavy weapons were scattered here and there. Other usable weapons were left behind by the enemy while fleeing in panic before the sacred advance of our victorious forces.

Among various scenes witnessed by the INA mission was that of a Magian Persian regime helicopter which, flying at a very low altitude, attacked a car carrying enemy captives. It fired its rockets at it, killing 20 of them. The sergeant major in charge of guarding the captives carried the bodies of the dead and led the other captives, who had tried to run away, to the same car and drove it although he could not drive. He then took them to our forces' nearest unit. This is evidence of the Khomeyni guards' cowardice.

On its way back, which exceeded 70 km, the INA mission passed by our units, comprised of various formations and ranks. It noted these forces' deep faith in the liberation war and deep confidence in the command's ability to make sound decisions in all circumstances.

Press Comment on Crossing

JN121155 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 12 Oct 80

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 12 Oct (INA)--The papers ATH-THAWRAH and AL-JUMHURIYAH today comment on the Karun crossing operation and agree that it was the first such operation of crossing a water barrier in the army's history.

ATH-THAWRAH, organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: The daring military operation carried out by our Iraqi forces in crossing the Karun River constitutes an important qualitative step in the victories of our armed forces. They gained new qualitative experience in the application of military science and combat methods.

The paper adds: This new victory is capable of totally isolating Abadan and Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr] from Tehran and the outside world. This is because our armed forces have tightened their iron grip on all entrances to the cities and complete control over all oil pipelines in and out of Abadan.

The paper also affirmed that our great revolution has scored historic and revolutionary achievements for our Iraqi people and Arab nation on all levels. It fought to protect the Arab nation's honor in 1973 and played its role in preserving Arab Damascus from falling into the hands of Zionism. This revolution is capable of teaching the tyrants and defeatists in Damascus and Tripoli a good lesson on how to be faithful to the Arab nation and its noble values.

Those dwarfs headed by Hafiz al-Asad and Al-Qadhdhafi have long records of plotting against the Arab nation and implementing imperialist schemes, have been dumped in the trash can of history, trampled on by the Arab masses and labeled with tyranny and eternal curses.

Concluding its comment the paper says: The Arab revolution in Iraq will continue to confront the Persian enemy and achieve victory, while at the same time deterring the tyrants. The revolution considers these two tasks as leading to the same objective, until our Arab nation achieves its full measure of pride and national sovereignty.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says: The all-out attack waged by our valiant forces on all battlefields, the heroic operation of crossing the Karun River, the advance toward Abadan, Ahvaz and Dezful and the deadly shells are the only reply to the ignorant Iranian rulers' rejection of good-neighbor relations. This is the only reply to the Magian racist regime's resort to disputes and aggression, which are rooted in the hearts and minds of the Khomeyni's clique. This clique cheats the Iranian people.

The paper explains that Iraq has tried every means to persuade the Persian regime to stop its aggressive, expansionist and arrogant policy.

Concluding its comment, the paper says: Our valiant army is closely watching the aggressors and is ready to continue teaching them the hardest lessons. Then, regret will not help the backward and ignorant clique.

BBC Report on Abadan

TA111649 London BBC World Service in English 1500 GMT 11 Oct 80

[From "Newsreel"]

[Text] The latest news of the fighting comes from a correspondent in the Iraqi city of Basra, not far from the southern front. The correspondent, Robert Coburn, went to the front a few hours ago and on his return he reported that the Iraqi forces said they were in position to make a final assault on the beseiged Iranian oil refinery town of Abadan. It was a statement echoed in official communiques in Baghdad. Here is Coburn's report:

[Begin recording] Iraqi forces tell me they have taken two bridges across the vital river Karun, which has been the biggest obstacle in their drive on Abadan. At 0300 this morning, troops and tanks are said to have crossed the river moving into the Mazari District north of the burning oil town. Abadan is apparently surrounded after a successful pincer movement from the north and from the south across the Shatt al-'Arab waterway from (Civi) and the oil port of Al-Faw.

But the optimistic trend here, that the final assault will begin on Abadan tonight or in the early hours of tomorrow morning, is open to serious doubt. A fierce artillery battle still rages across the river Karun. This morning, I came under shell and machinegun fire when I viisted the port of Khorramshahr. It is still difficult to measure the success of the crossing as I was not allowed to go up the river itself. But I did meet with 4 large trucks of Iranian prisoners on the road back to Basra who are said to have been captured in the northern part of Abadan, south of the river Karun. The arrival of the prisoners was celebrated in Basra with thunderous machinegun fire, at least until an air raid siren cleared the streets just moments ago. [end recording]

Further BBC Report

TA121530 London BBC World Service in English 1500 GMT 12 Oct 80

[Text] The Iraqi push for one of the world's largest oil refineries in the Iranian town of Abadan is said to be making slow but steady progress. The Iranians are fiercely resisting the advance and casualties have been described as heavy. Bob Coburn reports from the nearby Iraqi town of Basra:

[Begin recording] Iraqi officers in the captured port of Khorramshahr said this morning that Iranian artillery defending Abadan is in retreat. The fierce artillery duel between the two armies goes on unabated, but the Iraqis now appear to be slowly strengthening their drive for Abadan from the north. This will be their last stand, said one military man in Khorramshahr, pointing to the plume of black smoke pouring out of the burning Iranian oil town. Last stand or not, the Iranians are still fighting back.

The occasional burst of nearby machinegun fire proves the Iraqis are still meeting pockets of resistance in Khorramshahr itself, but the real battle is now said to be taking place across the river Karun just north of Abadan. Iraqi forces started to cross the river further up the stream 2 days ago. Now they are said to be engaged in heavy fighting just 150 meters from Iranians defending a military bridge over the river which links Khorramshahr with Abadan. If the Iraqis can capture this and another nearby civilian bridge intact, they will have two direct openings to drive into Abadan. Meanwhile, substantial Iraqi reinforcements of tanks and armored personnel carriers are making their way on the road from Basra toward the front lines. This is Bob Coburn for the BBC in Basra. [end recording]

BAGHDAD MEDIA REPORT ON NORTHERN SECTOR FIGHTING

Sar-e Pol-e Zahab Basin

JN101835 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1825 GMT 10 Oct 80

[Text] Qasr-e Shirin, 10 Oct (INA)--The Iraqi forces in the northern sector have tightened their control over the Sis, Bagh, Salman and Nandal mountains after controlling the Straits of Kohneh and Koja as well as Jabal and (Danakhushk) overlooking the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab Basin.

The INA team on the front lines said that the racist Persian enemy forces took to their heels as a result of our forces' blows. Our forces inflicted grave losses in life and equipment on the enemy.

The staff colonel commanding the Al-Muthanna forces has told the team that the Iraqi forces' control over the above-mentioned strategic positions was gained during the past 4 days.

He said that the defeated Persian forces left behind 45 dead and a large number of wounded, as well as military equipment, ammunition and vehicles.

Qasr-e Shirin, Khosrowvi

JN111930 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1910 GMT 11 Oct 80

[Text] Qasr-e Shirin, 11 Oct (INA)--Units of the Iraqi People's Army took up their fixed positions in the cities of Qasr-e Shirin and Khosrowvi, which were occupied by the Iraqi forces at the beginning of the Iraqi-Iranian war. These units deployed themselves in the suburbs and entrances to the two cities in order to share with the armed forces the honor of participating in the battle.

In an interview with the INA mission, the People's Army fighters stressed their pride in having this great honor, offered to them by the leadership.

The commander of the Qasr-e Shirin sector told the People's Army forces that the fighters are performing their duties with absolute bravery and a high feeling of responsibility.

The Khosrowvi sector commander said that the People's Army forces, which triumphed in the city, are performing their duties in coordination with our valiant armed forces to protect the city's inhabitants and offer them all the services they need.

'Tight Siege' of Dezful

JN120846 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0804 GMT 12 Oct 80

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Oct (INA)--The commander of the Nasr forces has told the press mission of the newspaper AL-IRAQ that the city of Dezful is now living its last moments and that a fatal siege has been tightened around it.

The commander added that so far the city's radio transmitters have been destroyed, all fuel storage tanks have been burned, large quantities of arms and ammunition have been seized and a large number of tanks in the city have been destroyed.

The artillery commander in the Nasr forces said in a similar statement that these forces are now in complete control of all axes to the city of Dezful and the military airfield in it.

The air defense commander of the Nasr forces asserted that a week ago six enemy planes raided the Iraqi forces, but that the air defense system shot them all down and enemy air raids on our forces have since stopped. We are longing for the return of the "fat duck," he added. The "fat duck" is the name which the Iraqi forces give to the Phantom.

A unit commander of the Nasr forces told the press mission that the Iraqi forces have seized one of the most fortified Iranian military camps. He said that this camp has underground shelters and military stores which are sufficient to continue fighting for 3 years.

Siege of Ahvaz

JN121743 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Oct 80

[Text] Hundreds of villagers of besieged Dezful have returned to their villages and are now performing their normal work after deserting their villages in the wake of fighting in the area.

A responsible source in the advancing Abu 'Ubaydah forces in the Dezful area has told the INA team in the central sector that our victorious forces are tightening their grip on vast areas of Ahvaz and the area up to Karkheh River and are currently overlooking Dezful.

The INA team has visited the Dezful radar station, which is now under the control of our valiant forces. It is a big base equipped with a sophisticated U.S.-made radar network that covers the Arab Gulf area. It includes several equipment and ammunition depots.

The team also visited two air force training camps near the base. The camps include two-story equipment and ammunition depots, which are under the control of our valiant forces. The contents of the depots have been transported to other areas.

Warning to Ahvaz

NC101759 Baghdad in Persian to Iran 1752 GMT 10 Oct 80

[Announcement]

[Excerpt] Attention respectable citizens of Ahvaz and Dezful: Attention! Attention!

In order not to be harmed by the surface-to-surface missiles and to remain safe from the heavy bombs dropped by aircraft which have not been used up to now, leave your cities immediately. Listen to our message to the respectable people of Ahvaz and Dezful.

ARABISTAN FRONT LEADER HAILS IRAQI FORCES

JN111906 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Oct 80

[Text] Arabistan youths have asserted that the entry of units of the valiant Iraqi army into Arabistan has been a source of joy and pride for the citizens, who received these units with Arab dances and cheers for the long life of the hero of liberation, President Saddam Husayn.

In an interview with the INA press mission in the central sector, comrade Abu Muhannad, one of the leaders of the Arabistan Liberation Front [Jabhat Tahrir Arabistan], has praised the courage and high morale of the Iraqi army in routing the Magian Persians and cleansing Arabistan territory of their filth. He said: The Arabistan youths who have organized themselves into armed revolutionary groups have taught charlatan Khomeyni's guards and defeated racist army a lesson in heroism and courage, which the Magian Persians always thought these youths were never capable of doing. The Arabistan youths are ready to make more sacrifices to prove their true attachment to the territory, peoples and history of the Arab nation.

Speaking about the savage and criminal tendencies of the eroded regime of the ayatollahs, Comrade Abu Muhannad said: This regime has adopted a policy which is now known to everyone. It tries to deceive the simpletons by using all kinds of allegations and lies. For instance, the regime claims that their great charlatan, stan Khomeyni, is God's emissary to enforce the tolerant Islamic sharia'a, which undoubtedly has nothing to do with him and his clique. The dirty hands of this clique are stained with the blood of thousands of sons of our Arabistan people--youths, old people and children--who were liquidated simply because they were Arabs.

Comrade Abu Muhannad added: This sinful regime has returned the Iranian peoples to the medieval ages through starvation and bloodshed. Khomeyni is starving Muslims in the name of Islam. The Iranian peoples and our Arab people in Arabistan have exposed and proven this fact. They are now struggling to overthrow the eroded regime.

Comrade Abu Muhannad told the INA mission that Khomeyni's regime is bloodthirsty. The great charlatan instructs his government to carry out more executions, bloodshed and murders. He particularly stresses the murdering of Arabs just because they are Arabs who love their Arabism, Iraq and leader-President Saddam Husayn.

Comrade Abu Muhannad continued: Recent clashes between our Arabistan youths and the retreating remnants of the Khomeyni guards have proven the barbarism of the regime. Driven by their black hatred of the Arabs, these Magian guards fired indiscriminately at Arab towns and villages in Arabistan, killing women, children and other innocent citizens. Against our Arab citizens. When the brave Iraqi forces entered Al-Khufajiyah, the guards of the charlatan Khomeyni committed horrible crimes that would shake the human conscience. They killed scores of Arab women along with their children. But our Arabistan youths dealt them punishing blows and killed several of these guards.

Speaking about the pride which our Arab people in Arabistan have in their Arabism and glorious past despite 55 years of Persian colonialism--before that Arabistan was an independent Arab emirate--comrade Abu Muhannad said: Although the Persians were able to carve up this dear part of the Arab homeland in accordance with imperialist plans, our Arab people in Arabistan have maintained their Arab roots, fought the policy of Persianization pursued by the racist Persians and preserved their Arabic language, despite the fact that the Persian language is the medium of instruction on all levels of schooling. The situation continued in this way until the advent of the regime of charlatan Khomeyni, which will be buried soon, God willing.

PAPER ACCUSES SYRIA, LIBYA OF SIDING WITH KHOMEYNI

LD131415 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 6 Oct 80 p ?

[Husayn Fawzi article: "Pretenders of Arabism Stand in the Same Trench With Tehran, Washington, and Tel Aviv"]

[Excerpts] Our armed forces have been compelled to use force in order to restore national sovereignty over Iraqi territories which the Persians grabbed in the absence of a strong and cohesive Iraqi stand. [paragraph continues]

It was known from the beginning that Iran, whether under the shah's regime or the Khomeyni authorities, always had territorial ambitions on the Arab nation's eastern borders in general and Iraq in particular. This is part of an imperialist plan aimed at weakening the Arabs in general and progressive Iraq in particular, so that this struggling country will not be the guiding example to the Arab nation's masses in their aspiration to build a unified Arab homeland.

Because world imperialism is the party that will really benefit from the attempts to weaken and preoccupy Iraq, Washington, despite all the apparent signs of estrangement between itself and the Tehran rulers, has hastened to send military equipment and spare parts to its alleged adversaries, who are holding the U.S. Embassy staff hostage as part of the alleged confrontation. Washington and Tel Aviv realize that the triumph of the Arabs in a battle led by Iraq would mean serious developments that would not bring reassurance to foreign influence and interests in the area.

As the media in the sister gulf states and in the other Arab countries in both East and West observe, the Iraqi armed forces' battle against the Khomeyni regime forces is a national battle from which nobody must remain aloof, not only because it has achieved the first victory for the Arabs since the battle of Al-Qadisiyan but also because weakening Iraq would mean a serious weakening of the Arab position and would spread the spirit of surrender to the Camp David conspiracy.

However, all these facts did not prevent bloody regimes hostile to Arabism and known for their policies from meanly standing with the Khomeyni regime, by supplying it not only with equipment, arms and spare parts but also with officers. Thus the Syrian and Libyan rulers are openly siding with those coveting Arab land, alleging that they are doing so in defense of the Palestinian cause. We wonder what Palestinian territory can be liberated if the Persians take control of the Shatt al-'Arab.

Therefore, it is certain and obvious that ranks are being closed against Iraq in order to break the back of Arab struggle which our militant country and its courageous leadership and armed forces are waging. However, Iraq's rich experience with the Arab nation confirms that it is impossible for such conspiracy to succeed after the sweeping victory achieved by our triumphant army.

CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER DEPARTS FOLLOWING 3-DAY VISIT

JN111133 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Oct 80

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Oct (INA)--Isidoro Malmierca, Cuban President Fidel Castro's envoy to President Saddam Husayn and minister of foreign relations, left Baghdad at noon today at the conclusion of a 3-day visit to Iraq.

During the visit, Malmierca conveyed to President Saddam Husayn Dr Castro's greetings and best wishes to the Iraqi Government and people for further progress and prosperity. He also conveyed Castro's thoughts on the current situation with regard to stopping the fighting between Iraq and Iran.

President Saddam Husayn briefed the Cuban envoy on the latest developments in the struggle on the eastern border of the Arab homeland and the heroic epics achieved by our armed forces in their just battle. He also explained to him Iraq's political stand and the legitimate rights for which it is fighting.

KING HUSAYN'S USSR VISIT POSTPONEMENT 'MUTUALLY AGREED'

JN110625 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 11 Oct 80

[Text] A Royal Hashemite Court official source stated yesterday that it has been mutually agreed between the Jordanian and Soviet sides to postpone the date of His Majesty King Husayn's visit to the Soviet Union for some time. The visit was scheduled to take place in mid-October. A new date for the visit will be agreed upon later.

HUSAYN REITERATES SUPPORT FOR IRAQ IN 13 OCT MEETING

JN131928 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Oct 80

[Text] This evening, His Majesty King Husayn met at the Royal Hashemite Court with the Senate and National Consultative Council members. His majesty explained the principles of the Jordanian stand and bases that constitute the landmarks of Jordan's course in confronting the challenges and crises.

His Majesty King Husayn also reviewed Jordan's course, banner, objectives, goals, stand and mission. He said that the banner is that of the great Arab revolution and the mission is that of the revolution, which was not so much a Hashemite revolution as it was an Arab Muslim revolution. Every person in this country is related to someone who played a role in the inception of the Arab revolution and had a duty and responsibility in defending its banner. His majesty said: We were a part of the Ottoman state. When we realized that our Arab character was in danger and that our dignity would be harmed and that our rights would be oppressed, the honorable people of this nation promptly raised the Arab revolution's banner for realizing the Arabs' freedom and unity and restoring the cultural role of the Arab nation. The revolution was against brothers in religion who had violated the Arab dignity and attempted to obliterate the Arab world's feature and identity. His majesty added: Jordan's army which waged battles in Palestine is an extension of the great Arab revolution's army. The Arab army's insignia that is borne by Jordan's army has significance and meaning that extend beyond Jordan to our great Arab homeland.

His majesty asserted that we must call to mind the slogans of the Arab revolution, Arabism and the Arab homeland which we have raised and believed in when the Arab nation faces difficulties and challenges. When any part of the Arab homeland is exposed to danger, we have a pan-Arab role to play regardless of the considerations. He said: We proceeded in the Jordanian arena from a pan-Arab principle and we had the honor to liberate and Arabize the army and to secure Jordan's independence.

His majesty asserted Jordan's support for fraternal Iraq because it has legitimate right to its land, waters and soil. This right has been subjected to the Iranian rulers' arrogance, intransigence and designs on Arab land and rights, to their disavowal of what they had pledged in the 1975 agreement to return the Iraqi land to their owners, and to their steps inciting domestic problems in Iraq and in the Arab gulf states. The Iranian aggressive attempts were in line with the designs of dismembering the area, weakening it and exposing it to the foreign powers' control.

His majesty said that the Arabs must side with Iraq because Iraq was always on their side and has never hesitated vis-a-vis any Arab stand requiring sacrifice and effort. His Majesty asserted that Iraq will triumph because it is right and that the signs of victory are glimmering on the horizon that our nation will restore its rights to its land and waters, reinforce its self-confidence and achieve its objectives and aspirations.

His majesty said that during his visit to fraternal Iraq he sensed that the Iraq people are a disciplined and united people constituting a concerted group.

The Iraqi people entertain self-confidence, have confidence in their leadership and in the invitability of their victory in their pan-Arab and national battle and maintain a stand of honor and glory.

The meeting was attempted by his Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the minister of court, the chief chamberlain, the ministers and his majesty's military secretary.

HUSAYN, KHALID EXCHANGE VIEWS IN JIDDA 11 OCT

JN112244 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 11 Oct 80

[Excerpt] The Jordanian side under His Majesty King Husayn and the Saudi side under His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz held a meeting this evening at the royal palace in Jidda. The two monarchs exchanged views on the current developments in the Arab homeland and comprehensively analyzed the Iraq-Iran dispute and its repercussions on the states in the region.

His Majesty King Husayn explained the main points of the Jordanian stand in supporting and aiding fraternal Iraq in regaining its historic rights on its territory and territorial waters. The Jordanian position is based on supporting Arab rights and Arab sovereignty over the Arab territories in Palestine and in any part of the Arab homeland.

The two sides reviewed Arab relations and agreed on the need to clear the Arab atmosphere and strengthen the fraternal relations among the Arab states. The two sides also discussed the preparations for the forthcoming Arab summit conference in Amman and the means of making it a success in the service of Arab interests and aspirations. The two sides reviewed the strong ties and the fields of joint cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

Husayn's Return

JN121310 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Oct 80

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn and the delegation accompanying him returned to the homeland at noon today at the conclusion of a 2-day visit to Saudi Arabia. During the visit, his majesty held lengthy talks with Saudi King Khalid Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz on developments in the area--primarily the Iranian aggression against Arab territory and waters belonging to fraternal Iraq--and their repercussions for the Arab homeland.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran described the talks between the two monarchs as fraternal ones which comprehensively analyzed Arab issues, particularly the issue of the Iraqi-Iranian dispute.

The views of the Jordanian and Saudi sides were identical on the issues of support for fraternal Iraq's historic and legitimate rights of sovereignty over its land and waters. The prime minister added: The Saudi leaders view events in the area with a deep and realistic outlook.

His Highness Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi deputy prime minister, stated that Saudi Arabia supports any Arab country, in particular Jordan, against any threat to it posed by the Israeli enemy. In a statement to the Jordanian information team that accompanied His Majesty King Husayn, His Highness the Saudi crown prince added that his country hopes that all Arab countries will support Jordan.

PRIME MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON IRAQ-IRAN, USSR VISIT

LD130832 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0800 GMT 13 Oct 80

[Text] Riyadh, 13 Oct (SPA)--Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran said Jordanian officials are aware that the Saudi leaders have a profound and realistic view of events in the region. He affirmed that the Saudi and Jordanian views were identical during the recent talks and were aimed at safeguarding the rights of Arabs and Muslims as a whole.

In an interview with AL-JAZIRAH, published here today, Badran said Jordan considers itself a party to the Iraqi-Iranian conflict because of its belief that all Arabs should side with Iraq.

He affirmed that Jordan has given neither military nor material aid to Iraq because the Iraqis have all the arms and supplies they need; consequently, there is no need for help from any Arab state.

He expressed his hope that the Islamic and nonaligned countries will endeavor to bring about a cease-fire and return matters to normalcy between Iraq and Iran.

On King Husayn's visit to the USSR, Badran said it has been decided to postpone the visit in view of present conditions in the region. He said a new date will be set in the future.

On the Arab Summit Conference scheduled to convene in Amman in November, the Jordanian prime minister said preparations were underway on the assumption that the conference will be held on 25 November.

MILITARY EXPERTS TRAINING IRAQIS WITH U.S. ARMS

GF111050 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 9 Oct 80 p 1

[Text] About 100 Jordanian military experts have started training Iraqi soldiers and officers in the use of American weapons the Iraqi Army has captured from Iranians during recent battles.

Iraq has announced that during yesterday's battles it captured 5 tons of American weapons, including antiaircraft missiles, tanks and unused weapons.

The sources have also confirmed that former Iranian Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar has visited Jordan and rented a house n Ash-Shumaysani. The sources confirmed that the house is tightly guarded and that some of the streets leading to the house have been closed. The sources indicated that Bakhtiar has been visiting the Jordanian capital regularly and that he prefers to use his private house rather than staying at hotels.

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD RETURNS FROM MOSCOW VISIT

JN101717 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 Oct 80

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad returned to Damascus at 1345 today following his important visit to Moscow, during which the treaty of friendship and cooperation was signed between the Syrian Arab Republic and the USSR. On his return the president was accompanied by the delegation which went with him on this visit.

Leonid Brezhnev, CPSU General Secretary and chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, arrived at 1000 at the Kremlin, where President Al-Asad resided during the visit. He accompanied President al-Asad to the airport. President al-Asad was seen off by President Brezhnev, senior Soviet officials, Syrian Ambassador in Moscow Jabr al-Kafri, and the Syrian Embassy staff.

President Hafiz al-Asad sent President Brezhnev a cable at the end of the visit. The following is the text of the cable:

It pleases me, upon leaving the USSR, to send you and the comrade members of CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers and the peoples of the Soviet Union, my best regards. It also pleases me to express my and the Syrian delegation's deep thanks for the feelings of friendship and the warm welcome we were accorded during our stay in Moscow.

During our meetings which were held during this visit, we have achieved an important qualitative development in the relations of friendship and cooperation between our countries. We have entrenched them in signing the treaty of friendship and cooperation, a treaty based on a firm foundation which secures its future development for the welfare of our peoples and the defense of the joint principles and goals.

I would like to point to the identity of our views on the issues which were discussed. This confirms the strength of bilateral relations.

On this occasion I wish you, our respected comrade, health and happiness and the friendly USSR peoples continued progress, success and achievements in all fields.

CABINET APPROVES TREATY WITH SOVIET UNION

JN131308 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1220 GMT 13 Oct 80

[Text] Damascus--The Cabinet convened at 1000 today under Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm.

At the onset of the meeting Dr al-Kasm gave a detailed explanation of the outcome of the important visit to the Soviet Union by President Hafiz al-Asad and the members of the accompanying party and government delegation and the talks which took place in an atmosphere of amity, understanding and positiveness, which reflect the concepts of close friendship linking Syria and the Soviet Union.

The prime minister affirmed that the strategic significance of the treaty of friendship and cooperation signed between Syria and the Soviet Union is only a result, culmination and embodiment of the great history of the march of friendship and continuous and effective cooperation between the two countries in all political, economic, military and cultural fields.

Dr al-Kasm stated that now that this important treaty has been signed, the future of Arab-Soviet cooperation in general, and Syrian-Soviet cooperation in particular, has a wide and new scope which will bolster Syria's national and pan-Arab role and its liberation trends, under President Hafiz al-Asad, in the Arab and international arenas. Furthermore, this treaty bases the foundation for Arab struggle aginst Zionism and U.S. imperialism on an effective and decisive strategy, particularly under these circumstances, when the Arab nation needs to bolster its central issue through bolstering the Palestinian issue, liberating the occupied Arab territories and proceeding to achieve its vital goals.

The ministers expressed their great appreciation for the Syrian-Soviet treaty of friendship and cooperation, since it marks clear qualitative progress in Arab Syrian-Soviet relations and is a practical embodiment of the prerequisites for strategic balance between ourselves and the Zionist enemy and its allies.

The ministers also affirmed that this treaty is a striking example of continuous, progressing and honest friendship between the Arab nation and the Soviet Union, adding that it reflects the common principles between Syria and the Soviet Union for struggle against Zionism, the United States and their schemes in the region and affirms its strong links with demands for serious Arab action and requisites for pan-Arab struggle and the bolstering of the national liberation struggle by all the peoples struggling for their independence and freedom so as to determine their fate.

The Cabinet unanimously approved the Soviet-Syrian treaty of friendship and cooperation and referred the bill to the People's Assembly.

The Cabinet then resumed its discussion of several draft laws and decrees, which it approved. These draft laws and decrees pertain to several state and public sector instituions.

STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT FOR SYRIAN-SOVIET TREATY

Ba'th Party

JN112230 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 11 Oct 80

[Statement issued by a joint meeting of the National and Regional commands of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Damascus on 11 October 1980]

[Text] The National and Regional Commands of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party held a joint meeting at 1400 today under leader Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the party. The participants in the meeting reviewed the results of the party and government delegation's visit to Moscow, which was crowned with the signing of a treaty of friendship and cooperation between the Syrian Arab Republic and the USSR on 8 October 1980. In their joint meeting, the two commands unanimously decided to approve this treaty.

This treaty is in implementation of the policy outlined by the 13th pan-Arab congress of the Ba'th Party and the decision taken by the party's Regional Command on 24 July 1980.

Masses of our Arab people, at this stage in its history, the Arab nation is facing great fateful challenge, a challenge led by imperialism, Zionism and reaction and aimed at the aspirations of the Arab nation for a free and effective pan-Arab existence which will expel the usurper enemy from our territories, restore the usurped pan-Arab rights and realize the nation's aims in building a united socialist Arab society.

Today, Arab Syria is taking a great historic position, which represents the aims of the masses of our Arab nation and their free pan-Arab tendencies. This Syrian stand embodies the nation's will in confronting the great conspiracy and in raising the banner of Arab struggle to defend the nation's honor, interests and aims. Syria, along with the progressive Arab states, is forming the pan-Arab Front of Steadfastness and Confrontation and is endeavoring, using all the means at its disposal, to make all the Arab states take a stand against the great conspiracy which threatens the Arab nation and which is represented by the Camp David agreements and the Egyptian-Israeli treaty. Syria is painstakingly working to prevent the collapse of the Arab wall in the face of U.S. imperialism and its Israeli ally and their colonialist interests in the Arab region.

Arab Syria has responded to the pan-Arab call from fraternal Libya and decided along with the brothers in Arab Libya to establish a merger unity [wahdah indimajiyah] between the two fraternal countries which will realize strength for the Arab nation and provide it with wide-ranging activity for its struggle in order to confront the nation's enemies and achieve the nation's goals.

Syria takes notice of the friendly front in the world headed by the Soviet Union, which stood and has always been standing by the side of the Arab nation and by its free and pan-Arab aims through support for its struggle and its rights and through Soviet assistance all the time, particularly during difficult circumstances. The Syrian Arab state reached a treaty of friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union as a symbol of pure friendship and as an embodiment of the lofty aims of the two countries and two peoples.

1. The treaty embodies the relations between Syria and the Soviet Union, relations which are based on friendship, cooperation and mutual respect in accordance with the interests of the peoples in the two countries. This treaty will play a great role in consolidating this friendship and in strengthening and promoting the relations between the two states.

2. This treaty will provide further support and more material and moral backing for Syria's position and its defense of the aims of its people and their rights. The treaty, therefore, is a great national victory and a consolidation of our freedom, independence and national will.

3. In shouldering its pan-Arab responsibility of realizing the aims of the Arab nation and defending Arab interests, Arab Syria will find the Syrian-Soviet treaty a true backing of and a firm support for its position and policy. The treaty, therefore, is a great pan-Arab victory and a true support for the struggle of the masses of the Arab nation to achieve Arab aims.

4. Arab Syria, which has played an important international role in the field of international peace and security and for the liquidation of colonialism and its pillars in the world and for supporting peoples' right in determining their own fate and protecting their interests from exploitation, particularly Syria's leading and constructive role in the field of the nonaligned movement, will find the Syrian-Soviet treaty an important support which will help it play a greater role in the nonaligned movement and in the Third World struggle to achieve freedom and independence and to defend its interests.

5. The treaty of friendship and cooperation reached between Syria and the Soviet Union will be a grand symbol of free cooperation among the peoples of the world and will certainly contribute toward facing the enemies of the people on this earth; namely, imperialism, Zionism and reaction. The treaty will be a prominent landmark on the road of Arab struggle to achieve the great Arab aims in unity, freedom and socialism.

[Signed] The joint meeting of the National and Regional Commands of the Ba'th Party

Progressive National Front

JN132132 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 13 Oct 80

[Text of 13 October statement by Progressive National Front on Syrian-Soviet treaty of friendship and cooperation]

[Text] On 8 October 1980 the Syrian Arab Republic and the Soviet Union signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation thus crowning militant strategic relations during the past decades and opening a new and advanced era of relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries in the political, economic, military and cultural spheres and others.

Arab relations with the Soviet Union began when national and progressive forces succeeded in assuming power in some Arab countries. These relations have passed through many great experiments which developed these relations in a comprehensive manner regarding many aspects of life. The relations have become stronger and deep-rooted as a result of these experiments, and mutual confidence has been consolidated. The Soviet Union has continued to be a loyal and sincere friend of the Arabs, and has supported our just struggle in all circumstances, particularly in hard times.

The Soviet Union has supported us during setbacks and has participated in an important manner in supporting the Arab liberation movement in every spot of the Arab homeland.

The USSR shouldered the burden of rearming the Arab armies in the wake of the June 1967 setback. The Arab nation, thanks to Soviet weapons, succeeded in achieving the important triumph in the 1973 October war. This war put an end to the arrogance of the Zionist enemy, who had claimed that he was invincible. The Soviet Union, despite As-Sadat's treason, enabled the Arab nation to pursue the right path that would enable it to fulfill its phased objectives of regaining the occupied Arab territories and securing the Palestinian people's national rights. The Soviet Union has always supported the Arabs' rights in all international and political forums, championed their causes and done its best to support their just struggle for the recovery of their rights and the explusion of the aggressors and imperialists from their lands.

The friendly Soviet Union has greatly contributed to the development of the Arab economy, particularly in the strategic spheres, like the iron and steel complexes, the building of big dams like the Euphrates Dam, the high dam, the exploration for oil, the realization of the slogan that oil should be nationally explored, building railraods and other strategic projects which have played an important national role in consolidating the Arab nation's steadfastness, and developing its national economy.

The Soviet Union and other socialist countries have played a major role in the formation of national cadres and arming them with science, knowledge and expertise. Thousands of young Arab technicians have been graduated from its universities and institutions qualified to serve their homeland and achieve progress and construction there.

The Soviet Union did not retain the Arab experts and did not buy the national cadres, but urged them following their graduation to leave for their countries to assume their role in building the homeland and achieving the people's objectives and aspirations.

These are our relations with the Soviet Union. They are relations based on consistent mutual respect and benefit. They are relations based on sincerity and mutual confidence. They are relations based on a deep concern that the Arab nation might overcome its difficulties, face the big challenges on it and achieve the national and pan-Arab aspirations of its masses.

That's why the treaty of friendship and cooperation recently concluded between Arab Syria and the Soviet Union in reality is just an embodiment of these sincere relations and a crowning of these relations as fraternal and militant relations which reflect cooperation among peoples.

The treaty of friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union has come at an important stage and in a historic era for the Arab nation.

U.S. imperialism has been able to remove a great Arab force, fraternal Egypt, from the arena of Arab struggle by taking advantage of As-Sadat's treason. Egypt has established with Israeli enemy an imperialist pact in the heart of the Arab homeland sponsored and directed by the United States as a spearhead against the liberation movements in the Arab homeland, Africa and Asia. This imperialist-Zionist-As-Sadat pact is directed mainly against the Palestinian issue, the central issue of the Arabs. The pact seeks to end the Arab-Israeli conflict in Israel's favor and its aggressive and expansionist ambitions in the Arab homeland. Its task is to kill the flame of Arab struggle and serve the interests of imperialism and its reactionary agents in the Arab region. It wants to divide the Arab homeland and to revert it to a rich grazing ground for imperialism to plunder and corrupt.

Imperialism is not satisfied with this amount of conspiracy. It heads for the eastern part of the Arab homeland and starts a war between Iraq and the Iranian revolution in order to cut off this part of the homeland, with its economic, military and human capabilities which might have been directed to the real and only arena of struggle--the arena of conflict between the Arab nation and its most adamant enemy, the Zionist enemy in the occupied territories.

Imperialism is waging this war to confront the Iranian revolution, which has smeared America's honor, used its people to defy it and declared from the first day that it will not be the imperialism's policeman in the gulf region. The Iranian revolution has openly stood with the Arab nation in its conflict with the Zionist enemy. It has considered itself responsible for the liberation of Palestine and considered itself one of the confrontation states against Israel.

Imperialism has been triumphant in waging this dishonest and unpatriotic war between Iraq and the Iranian revolution. This war will result in losses for the two countries, destruction of the two forces and burning of their economic installations, which had been counted on as a source of strength and a major support for the Arab nation in its just battle. This war is a battle against the interests of our Arab people in Iraq and against the higher interests of the Arab nation. It is a battle which seeks to reimpose U.S. domination over Iran and the establishment of a wall of rancor and hatred between the Iranian people and the sons of the Arab nation.

International imperialism has been active following its two victories in Egypt and in Iraq. Its fleets have begun to roam the Arab region acting the bully in the most vital and important Arab regions, particularly in the oil regions where oil is of vital and strategic importance for the world. International imperialism has established colonialist bases in the heart and flanks of the Arab homeland--bases in Egypt, Somalia and Oman--to launch its forces against the aspirations of the masses of the Arab people, and against the Arab strugglers who seek welfare for their homeland, victory and prosperity for their nation. It has activated its agents in Lebanon to establish a sectarian ministate. U.S. agents in the region have been relieved, thinking that their chance has come to assume their natural position in scheming and treason with U.S. imperialism and its interests in the Arab region.

Inside Syria reactionary and rightist forces have been active. The gang of the Muslim Brotherhood organization has been in the forefront attempting to shake our country's steadfastness and its position as an invincible fortress confronting the Camp David conspiracy and the return of U.S. hegemony over our region. The more tenacious and determined our country is to confront them, the deeper and more comprehensive their conspiracies. They have carried arms, killed ulema, burned establishments and sought to spread sedition and to destroy the solid national unity.

However, our people's awareness, vigilance and patriotism were lying in wait for them. Their remnants are now looking for hideouts to protect themselves from the people's revenge and the hands of justice.

O masses of our great people: At this important stage for our nation, Syria concludes a treaty of friendship and cooperation with the friendly Soviet Union. At this serious stage for our nation, Egypt departed, Iraq was isolated and Arab solidarity was weakened and the United States has come to us directly with its airborne, sea and ground forces, with its military bases, with its imperialist alliances and hostile fleets. At this important stage of our nation's history, the Syrian Arab Republic, out of its commitment to its principles and pan-Arab responsibilities, goes to friendly Soviet Union and concludes with it a treaty of friendship and cooperation. In effect, this treaty is:

1. An expression of the solid friendship linking Syria with the Soviet Union. It is a manifestation of lengthy relations--relations based on mutual respect, sincere cooperation and mutual interest. From this angle, the treaty is a consolidation of this friendship and cooperation at all levels and in various fields. It is real power for our country's stand and our anti-imperialist policy which is opposed to Zionism and its expansionist dreams and hegemony over the Arab nation. It is one of the requisities for achieving our rights, land and national independence. It constitutes support for and consolidation of our independent will and our national and progressive course.

2. This treaty will provide further support and backing to the Arab nation's struggle against its enemies. This treaty will be a real support for the Arab masses' struggle in their fateful battle against Zionism, imperialism and reaction.

The treaty between Syria and the Soviet Union supports Syria's steadfastness against the Arab nation's enemies. The treaty was concluded to fulfill the Arab masses' hopes to confront the imperialist onslaught. From this angle, the treaty constitutes a big pan-Arab victory achieved by the Arab nation because it expresses the conviction of every patriotic and progressive citizen in Syria and in the Arab homeland.

3. Syria has managed to play a significant role in the past stage in terms of work and struggle in the international arena, whether in international organizations, in political and regional bodies, or at the level of bilateral relations.

The Syrian-Soviet treaty will consolidate the Syrian role in all these forums, particularly in the field of the nonaligned movement and in the struggle of the Third World countries.

4. The treaty is a sincere expression of the charter of the Progressive National Front, which says the following with regard to work at the international level:

The friendly socialist countries, headed by the Soviet Union, are the principal international force that supports our various issues in the international bodies. These countries are giving our people various military, political and economic aid. Therefore, our international policy emanates from keenness to achieve the closest ties of cooperation and friendship with these countries in the service of our mutual struggle along the path of liberation and socialist construction.

The treaty accords with the resolutions of the parties which form the Progressive National Front, its congresses and various statements which have approved the need for developing our relations with the Soviet Union and for raising them to a new qualitative level compatible with our militant circumstances and with our enemies' circumstances.

5. Due to all these considerations and to enable our country and our nation to face the burdens of the next stage, the Syrian-Soviet treaty was signed as a symbol of the sincere and pure cooperation among the nations, as a manifestation of the free will among the countries and as a further support for our just struggle.

If the treaty has caused anxiety and fear among our enemies, particularly the Zionist leaders, it has been received by the Arab masses in our country and in the other Arab countries with rejoicing, happiness and satisfaction.

The Progressive National Front, which declared at today's meeting its absolute and collective support for the Syrian-Soviet treaty of friendship and cooperation, expresses its deep thanks to the leader President Hafiz al-Asad for his personal efforts to achieve this victory for our people and nation. The president has always been the factor manifesting our people's aspirations and expressing our peoples' hopes.

[Signed] The Central Command of the Progressive National Front in Syria, Damascus, 13 October 1980

STATEMENT OF 'RESPONSIBLE SOURCE' ON RELATIONS WITH IRAQ

JN112147 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 11 Oct 80

[Text] Damascus--A responsible source has stated the following:

The Iraqi regime has been launching a cheap information and political campaign against Syria for several months--a campaign based on the stock of grudges, lies and psychological complexes of the regime's leaders--with the aim of diverting attention from what is actually taking place in Iraq in the form of crimes and events, deluding Arab public opinion and trying to preoccupy it from following the developments of the Iraqi regime's stands in the service of the Arab nation's enemies.

As part of the campaign of lies based on the stock of grudges and psychological complexes of the Iraqi regime's leaders, a statement was issued in Baghdad yesterday announcing the severance of all Iraq's relations with Syria under the pretext of Syria's military aid to Iran.

Since the beginning of the Iraqi campaign of lies, the Syrian Government has shown a great care to adhere to patience and a high feeling of pan-Arab responsibility so that the Arab's eyes would be fixed on the battle of pan-Arab existence and so that no voice would overwhelm that of the battle against the Zionist entity and its allies in the Arab homeland. It seems that Syria's steadfastness and rejection of responding to peripheral battles have been deliberately misinterpreted by the Baghdad rulers. Thus, they have carried on with the campaign of grudges and lies against Syria and its steadfast people. Most prominent among the features of that campaign have been the following:

1. The personal and vulgar curses in which the ruling clique in Baghdad has been skillful and with which it has blackened the pages of the Iraqi newspapers against the Syrian Arab people and their steadfastness and against their leadership.

2. Plotting against steadfast Syria with both weapons and funds and opening training camps for the Muslim Brotherhood gang and supplying this gang with all that enables it to continue the acts of murder and sabotage in Syria, as was clear to our Arab nation from the confessions made by the gang leadership and from the convicting documents we posses against the regime of killers in Baghdad.

3. The occupation of the Syrian Embassy in Baghdad, which constitutes a unique incident in the history of international diplomatic relations, and the placement of explosives in the embassy's rooms and then the accusation against Syria in an exposed attempt to provoke Syria and drag it to a battle that would give a justification for the Baghdad rulers to set up a wall between them and Syria and would provide a justification for their conspiratorial involvement against Syria.

The Iraqi regime has made desperate attempts to distort Syria's stands and to sow discord between it and its Arab brothers. It has also sought, by means of intrigue and deception, to encircle Syria's stand and to try to impose a seige on it.

The Iraqi regime has done all it could against Syria and its people, but it has not been able to gain anything from its acts. Therefore, the Iraqi regime's complexes have gotten larger and the grudges of those placed in the regime's leadership have increased to such an extent that vanity has killed them. Their grudges have also blinded them to the interest of the homeland and the nation. Their enmity to Syria has poured directly into the service of the Arab nation's enemies. Their rancor against Syria's people reveals to the Iraqi leaders their weakness, defeatism and evasion of pan-Arab responsibility.

The Iraqi leaders know, as all the Arab citizens know, that those who want to confront the Israeli forces' occupation of the Arab territories do not set up between them and those forces a wall of alienation built up by grudges and psychological complexes. They also know that those who stand by the side of Arab steadfastness and work for the Arabs' fateful issue must necessaily be on the side of Damascus in its steadfastness and confrontation. Standing by the side of Damascus in its steadfastness and confrontation. Standing by the side of Syria means in the current Arab situation standing by the side of the issue of liberation. Antagonizing Syria directly means serving U.S. imperialism and Israel.

The Iraqi regime has frequently directed stabs against Arab Syria. Syria has responded by showing patience and a general feeling of national responsibility so that they might end this behavior or so that those treacherous rulers might eventually wake up due to remorse, but this has been in vain.

As for Arab Syria, the vision has been clear enough since Saddam Husayn turned against the march of Syrian-Iraqi unity, when he killed those he killed and expelled others and began to trace a course for himself which is opposed to Iraq's nationalist and pan-Arab interests and contradicts the feelings of our great Iraqi people; namely, a design which keeps Iraq away from the Arab-Israeli conflict arena and stirs up regional feelings, a thing which completely contradicts pan-Arab interests.

The expulsion of President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, the killing of a large number of the command members, the assassination of scores of cadres and the arrest of hundreds aimed, first of all, at striking at the march of Syrian-Iraqi unity, handing Iraq's destinies to U.S. imperialism and pushing Iraq and its potentials away from becoming a strategic depth of the Arab nation in its struggle against the Zionist presence.

The last of the Iraqi regime's accusations against Syria was the announcement made yesterday that Syria is offering military aid to Iran. The Iraqi regime used this false allegation as a pretext to cut off what has been left for them in the form of relations with Syria and to basically cover up the mad crime Saddam Husayn had committed by pushing Iraq into a battle in which he has no interest, a battle in which there will be a certain loser and no winner, a battle which is being fought in the service and on behalf of U.S. imperialism in the area, a battle that will lead to the following results:

1. Placing pressure on Iran and overthrowing its revolutionary stand in support of the Arab right in occupied Palestine--a stand which is hostile to U.S. imperialism--so that Iran might again become an imperialist base, as it was during the reign of the former shah. Thus, a new link would be completed within the framework of the Camp David accords; namely, the link of Israel and As-Sadat in the West and a fascist regime in the East that may form an axis to revive the Baghdad pact.

2. Ending Iraq's pan-Arab role in general and Iraq's role in the arena of the Arab-Israeli conflict in particular.

3. Destroying the economy of Iraq and Iran and ruining the installations and establishments which have been built over many years so that the two countries would go back again to the starting point and, eventually, mortgage the Iraqi and Iranian oil in order to rebuild what was destroyed in the war.

4. Creating a battle in the Arab homeland that would divert attention from the battle with Israel and actually replace the battle against Israel, especially since the previous U.S. attempts had failed to divert the Arabs' attention from the battle of national destiny against the Zionist occupation--attempts like the sedition in Lebanon, the war in the Horn of Africa and the alleged danger coming from Afghanistan.

All these actions, which are being implemented by Saddam Husayn's regime, are taking place through U.S. imperialist encouragement and overt instigation, taking advantage of Saddam's conceit, his psychological complexes and instinctive readiness to carry out any deed, no matter how vile, just to satisfy his conceit and to tickle his paranoia.

5. Bringing about an intensive U.S. presence in the area in order to encircle the Arab liberation movement.

Saddam has carried out this crazy and condemned war against revolutionary Iran and against its principled stand with the Arabs. He has not carried it out against the Iran and the shah, the agent of imperialism and Zionism and the enemy of the Arabs.

Since its establishment against the tyrant shah and against his masters in Washington, the revolution in Iran has declared its complete commitment to the Arab nation's struggle for liberation, has severed all its relations with Israel, has halted oil exports to the Zionist enemy and has considered the defense of the Palestinian question one of its major and sacred tasks. But the stands of revolutionary Iran have not been able, since the beginning, to curb Saddam Husayn's regime from being its enemy, adopting the shah remnants and and regrouping the remnants of the criminal SAVAK organization. There has been no excuse for this. These practices will not be understood by any of Arabs unless we equate the Saddam Husayn regime with the shah regime within the context of these two regime's service of U.S. imperialist interests and the consequent connection of their interests on this basis.

The Syrian Government, submitting these facts to the Arab nation and to our people in Iraq, stresses that it has always confronted this scheming line of the Saddam Husayn regime based on the following pan-Arab considerations:

1. If there is a dispute between Iran and Iran, it is a dispute on borders. Meanwhile, the Arab nation's conflict with Israel is a conflict for survival. Our major enemy is the Zionist entity in Palestine. Our battle is there. We will not be dragged into a secondary battle unless it is imposed upon us. The enemies of the nation and the conspirators against it will answer for their historic responsibility before God, the homeland and the nation.

2. We have always endeavored to insure that no voice will overwhelm that of the battle against the Zionist enemy. Anyone attempting anything other than that is doing what the interests of the Arab nation's enemies dictate upon him.

3. We are with our people in Iraq. We share their plight, feel their pains and understand the sufferings they receive from the murderers' regime. We will stick with our hero Iraqi people in their plight until they are saved from their ordeal because the Iraqi people are as our hearts to us. It is impossible that we will deal with or view them through the crimes and treasons of their rulers against the people, the homeland and the nation. We view and deal with them from a stand of fraternity, pan-Arab belonging and fateful solidarity.

4. The ruling clique in Baghdad, disregarding all the chances we have given it to return to the right path and delving deeply into the path of treason and plotting, will take the full responsibility for all the crimes it has committed against Iraq and the Arab nation.

5. Out of Syria's keenness on striking at the plotters and exposing their agentry, we call on the Arab League secretary general to form a committee, comprising representatives of a number of the Arabs states, to investigate the Iraqi regime's allegations and to prove to the entire Arab nation the Baghdad government's lying, plotting and deluding of Arab public opinion.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic declares these facts to the Arab nation after having been patient with provocations for a long time. The Syrian Government stresses anew that Syria is, as it has always been to its nation, a fortress of steadfastness, a base for pan-Arab struggle and a launching pad for the liberation of the occupied Arab land.

UNNAMED OFFICIAL DENIES SYRIA ARMING IRAN

NC112032 Paris AFP in English 2020 GMT 11 Oct 80

[Text] Damascus, 11 Oct (AFP)--A Syrian official today denied his country was supplying weapons to Iran, branding the reports as "fantasy."

The official, who asked for anonymity, said Damascus was saving its arsenal "to use against its main enemy, Israel."

Iraq yesterday broke off diplomatic relations with Syria, accusing it of sending military equipment to Iran. Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr today denied the claim.

SOVIET GRAND MUFTI ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS

JN102009 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 10 Oct 80

[Text] Damascus--His Excellency Shaykh (Diya' ad-Din Khan ibn Hisham Baba Khan), grand mufti of Soviet Muslims, arrived in Damascus today at the head of a delegation of Soviet pilgrims on a visit to the country en route to the holy land to perform the pilgrimage.

He was welcomed by the grand mufti His Excellency Shaykh Ahmad Kaftaru. The Soviet grand mufti praised the firm relations between Syria and the Soviet Union. He also highlighted the bonds of fraternity between the Muslims in the two friendly countries. He praised the friendship and cooperation treaty which was signed in Moscow the day before yesterday between the two friendly countries.

ALGERIA

EARTHQUAKE HITS AL-ASNAM; RESCUE OPERATIONS BEGIN

Damage Report

LD110740 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 11 Oct 80

[Excerpt] The town of Al-Asnam has suffered great damage as a result of the earthquake. The first shock reached 7.5 degrees on the Richter scale. The second shock reached 6.3 degrees on the same scale. First assessments say that the town of Al-Asnam has suffered heavy losses estimated at between 60 to 80 percent. The reports point out that the tremor with its epicenter in Al-Asnam has resulted in the destruction of the Al-Asnam hospital, justice palace, the headquarters of the municipality, the party's national governorate, the civil guard, [word indistinct], the Al-Jam' Al-Kabir [mosque], the girls secondary school, and a significant number of buildings in two residential quarters in addition to the headquarters of the province which also suffered extensive damage.

Earthquakes which yesterday hit the center and west of Algeria caused great panic among the inhabitants of the capital. However, they did not cause any loss in lives or property. Residents of buildings, after the first tremors which lasted for more than 10 seconds on the average, ran out to the streets carrying their children and valuables.

Emergency Ministerial Session

LD130102 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 12 Oct 80

[Excerpts] Rescue and first aid teams in the devastated area of Al-Asnam continue to work most earnestly and energetically, spurred by the true fraternal spirit of solidarity.

A number of victims have been brought out of the rubble. The injured were sent to clinical centers specially set up to receive them throughout the homeland. A number of injured was moved by helicopters and ambulances to the hospitals of the capital Algiers and Al-Blida.

The Council of Ministers held a meeting today at the presidential headquarters chaired by President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the party; and in light of the directives of the president of the republic during his visit to Al-Asnam and in accordance with a report by the prime minister and the minister of interior, who are chairmen of the national committee and the local committee which had been formed under a decision of the Council of Ministers at an emergency session held on the day of the disaster, the Council of Ministers adopted a number of measures accompanied by practical methods of implementation.

These measures comprise: 1) Declaring the Al-Asnam area as a disaster area. 2) Implementing a program of action consisting of two states: The first state is to double the operation of searching and rescuing victims by suitable means; to intensify the urgent measures of first aid; to move the injured via the quickest ways to clinical institutions and mobile hospitals, to double the housing units set up in tents in the Al-Asnam area during a period not exceeding a few weeks; to set up prefabricated administrative quarters quickly to resume normal functioning of local administration and also the necessary collective machineries.

The second state: To build prefabricated reception quarters in order to quickly replace the housing units set up in tents to be under the responsibility of a national specialist organization which is to operate on the site permanently; to set up prefabricated educational centers quickly to insure normal resumption of education at various levels; to establish administrative machinery to take charge of drawing up a special program for the benefit of the Al-Asnam Province and neighboring stricken areas; to present a draft project for rebuilding the city of Al-Asnam and other populated areas hit by the earthquake, in circumstances which appear more favorable and in accordance with special conditions and features.

After drawing conclusions from the debates and issuing directives to implement quickly the measures adopted, the head of state saluted the sincerity and devotion of all those who took part and are still taking part in the rescue and aid operations. He also saluted the total solidarity movement of the citizens. On the other hand, the head of state saluted the solidarity movement which emerged on the international scene and the sympathy of a great number of countries with Algeria following this national calamity.

Finally, after the end of the Cabinet meeting the president of the republic, Brother Chadli Bendjedid, dispatched to the stricken areas brother Premier Abdelghani accompanied by the ministers of interior, health, housing and construction for the purpose of taking, on site, all the measures which insure implementation of the actions decided by the government.

Rescue Operations

LD131338 **Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic** 1200 GMT 13 Oct 80

[Excerpt] In order to follow up the rescue operations, we point out that at the conclusion of the Council of Ministers' session yesterday President Chadli Bendjedid ordered Prime Minister Abdelghani and the ministers of the interior, health, and housing and reconstruction to visit the stricken area in order to take all necessary measures to implement all the actions decided by the government.

Immediately on his arrival in Al-Asnam, the prime minister held a meeting with the command of rescue operations formed last Friday. During the meeting the prime minister was acquainted with the measures in operation. He gave instructions to speed up the operations to rescue the citizens.

Following this meeting the prime minister made a statement to the press in which he said it is at present very difficult to give figures on the human and material losses caused by the earthquake. Moreover, he mentioned that all available resources have been mobilized for the rescue of the inhabitants of the stricken town. Abdelghani added that instructions have been issued to local authorities to take all necessary measures to endure normal life of the region.

Libya

FOREIGN MINISTRY REACTS TO BREAK IN RELATIONS WITH IRAQ

LD110855 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 11 Oct 80

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Oct (JANA)--The Foreign Secretariat has issued a statement about Iraq's decision to break off relations with the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. It says:

The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has announced that Iraq has decided to break off its relations with Libya. The Foreign Secretariat expresses its regret at this unjustified decision. Behind this decision are the tendentious reports of the radio of the Zionist enemy and those hostile radios and agencies in its orbit. It transpires that their propaganda has succeeded in achieving its goal.

FINISHING TOUCHES PUT ON PLANS FOR WASHINGTON TALKS

TA111306 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 11 Oct 80

[Text] Almost unnoticed because of the more dramatic events taking place in this area, finishing touches were being put this week on the resumption of autonomy talks next week in the American capital. Political reporter David Essing looks at the prospects:

[Begin recording] No one has any idea what's going to happen next. With the eyes of the world on the Persian Gulf war and the new Syrian-Soviet treaty, the situation has become more variable than ever before. Jerusalem and Cairo are even at odds over what the next round is all about. Israeli chief negotiator Yosef Burg has two goals: to renew the autonomy negotiations in effect suspended by President As-Sadat 5 months ago and to continue bilateral contacts with American negotiator Sol Linowitz on his interim report summing up progress and the state of play.

But for the Egyptians it's a different story altogether. They say the meeting is only to pave the way for the Begin-As-Sadat-Carter summit, probably in early December. At week's end, reports out of Cairo disclosed that President As-Sadat has ordered his foreign minister, Kamal Hasan 'Ali, to take a tough line in Washington.

So what happens if the Egyptians don't budge and talk only of summitry? Well, replies Dr Burg, then it will have been an interesting trip and that's all. If the atmosphere is right in Washington, the Israeli negotiator may present Jerusalem's reply to the American document that includes some points that Israel rejects. Burg will decide on the spot.

Would Israel call off the tripartite summit if the Egyptians don't negotiate next week? Dr Burg is noncommittal, but he does say it's hard to think about a summit taking place without the right preparations.

And why does Israel insist on negotiations before the summit proposed by As-Sadat? Prime Minister Began has said there should be no prize to the Egyptian leader for repeatedly calling off the talks. Israel also wants the autonomy negotiators to keep hammering away at the issues and not leave them all for Begin, possibly to be caught in a squeeze play between Carter and As-Sadat.

Summing up his hopes, Yosef Burg says all the sides have a duty to negotiate and not let the Persian Gulf war affect the talks. It's important to show the world that the Israeli-Egyptian peace process is alive and stable, Burg says. Any interruption of the autonomy negotiations at this moment would be interpreted as yet another sign of unrest in the area. [end recording]

Cairo's View

TA120607 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 12 Oct 80

[Text] Talks between Israel and the United States on autonomy open today in Washington. However, political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer says that Egypt is not ready at this time to renew the negotiations on substantive issues. Reports from Cairo say that Egypt believes the negotiations will be resumed only next year, at a time convenient to it.

Talks will begin on 14 October among the heads of the three delegations and our correspondent says that the U.S. administration is seeking to make them a special festive occasion. For this reason the talks will open at the official guest residence, Blair House. It appears that President Carter will also receive the delegation heads, in order to enhance his reelection prospects.

Burg's Thesis

TA121642 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 12 Oct 80

[Text] Today the Cabinet approved the trip to Washington by Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg for the resumption of the autonomy talks. After the session we heard Dr Burg's thesis about the conflict in the Persian Gulf and its effect on the autonomy talks, among other things:

[Begin recording] My thesis is that this corner, that begins in Metulla, in Rosh Haniqrah, and extends to the Egyptian-Libyan border, is peaceful and we must keep it this way. I think that the Arabs living in Judaea and Samaria should also understand that it is good for there to be peace in the region, for them as well as for all of us here.

[Unidentified correspondent] Can we understand from this, sir, that the developments in the gulf may in fact have a positive influence on strengthening the peace agreement and the autonomy talks?

[Burg] Yes, definitely. In my view, this is possible. This is a thesis I will defend. I think I can defend it with intellectual honesty and also with genuine logic. If we look at how Iraq and Iran are destroying each other as well as our sources of life and the energy sources of the industrial world, I think that a prize is due to those who, even with certain sacrifices, saw to it that there should be peace in the region.

[Correspondent] Are you taking any message to the U.S. President on the situation in the Persian Gulf and perhaps also on the Soviet-Syrian friendship pact?

[Burg] It may be assumed that I will have the opportunity of talking with the President or, at least, with those who deal with these issues, and I certainly have a message--not a formal one but I have reports, or views, to impart. [end recording]

Burg's Departure

TA130705 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 0540 GMT 13 Oct 80

[Excerpt] Ben-Gurion Airport, 13 Oct--Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg left this morning for the United States, where the autonomy talks will be resumed. He said that when Iraq and Iran are at war, the whole world has to support the peace between Israel and Egypt.

'The resumption of the talks is particularly important in view of the situation in our region, as there has been no progress in these talks since May of this year. A new momentum for the advancement of peace in our region may result from these talks," Dr Burg said.

Dr Burg will meet U.S. Secretary of State Edmund Muskie but said he still did not know whether or not he would confer with President Carter as well. Replying to a question on whether he would also deal with a Carter-Begin-As-Sadat summit, Burg said that such a meeting should be prepared properly or else it would fail. "One does not land on the top of Everest," Burg said. "One has to climb up there."

Israeli Draft

TA130548 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 13 Oct 80

[Text] Israel's representatives, headed by the director general of the Interior Ministry, Hayim Kubersky, conferred last night with U.S. representatives and submitted Israel's autonomy draft, along with the Cabinet's reaction to the document Ambassador Linowitz' submitted during his talks in the Middle East. These talks resulted in the resumption of the autonomy negotiations.

BURUNDI

PRESIDENT CONDUCTS MINOR CABINET RESHUFFLE

AB121350 Paris AFP in English 1334 GMT 12 Oct 80

[Text] Bujumbura, 12 Oct (AFP)--President Jean-Baptiste Bagaza of Burundi has carried out a minor cabinet reshuffle, the official news agency ABP reported.

Presidential counsellor Andre Bibwa was named finance minister replacing Astere Girukwigomba, and Presidential Affairs Minister Remy Nkengurutse became minister of transport, posts and telecommunications in place of Jean-Baptiste Manwangari, it said.

SOMALIA

SOMALI FRONT CLAIMS VICTORIES NEAR KENYA BORDER

LD121634 (Clandestine) Voice of Western Somali and Abo Liberation Fronts in Somali to Western Somalia 0930 GMT 12 Oct 80 EA

[Text] Gallant Somali Abo fighters were engaged in fierce fighting with the black colonial forces of Abyssinia on the 4th of this month in Moiale district, Sidamo region.

The black colonial forces of Abyssinia lost 25 soldiers killed and many more wounded, 1 troop carrier burned out, heavy losses in small arms captured and other military hardware destroyed.

Latest reports from the fighting areas say the liberation forces have the upper hand and are inflicting heavy losses on the enemy forces.

UGANDA

FORMER AMIN TROOPS CAPTURE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL

AB101515 Paris AFP in English 1507 GMT 10 Oct 80

[Text] Kampala, 10 Oct (AFP)--Invaders from Sudan and Zaire have captured Arua, provincial capital of West Nile Province in north-west Uganda, Foreign Minister Otema Alimadi said today.

West Nile was the home district of former dictator Idi Amin, and Arua lies about 15 miles (24 kilometres) from the Zaire border where many of Amin's troops were reported to have fled with their weapons after his overthrow last year by Tanzanian forces backed by Ugandan exiles.

Yesterday ruling Military Commission Chairman Paulo Muwanga confirmed reports that members of the former Amin army had launched a series of attacks on Ugandan border posts in the area.

Mr Alimadi told AFP that Arua was believed to have fallen yesterday afternoon, as the rest of Uganda marked the country's 18th independence anniversary.

The foreign minister said he had informed United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim of the situation in West Nile Province, but added that he had not requested a meeting of the Security Council.

He said he had also sent a message to the Organization of African Unity secretary general.

The first target of the invaders on Monday night was Amin's home town, Koboko, which is two miles from the Zaire border. Mr Alimadi said: Our boys were taken by surprise by the attack on Koboko. They lost the post.

He said that he had called in the Sudanese and Zairian ambassadors on Tuesday to inform them that the invading force had come from their countries, but both had denied any knowledge of the attack.

A post office official said all communications with Arua had been cut since this morning, and Uganda airlines suspended its flights to the town.

Travellers from the north-west said that the Uganda Army had set up a large number of road blocks.

Possible Counterattack

AB130810 Paris AFP in English 0730 GMT 13 Oct 80

[Excerpt] Kampala, 12 Oct (AFP)--Thousands of former soldiers of ousted Ugandan dictator Idi Amin have been flooding into the Ugandan province of West Nile as voters prepare to register for the country's first general elections, due to be held December 10.

A counter-offensive could possibly be launched against the invasion early this week. Tanzanian artillery in Uganda was apparently headed for the country's north, and unidentified troop reinforcements which passed through Kampala Friday night were moving toward the same region.

Ugandan Foreign Minister Otema Allimadi today accused Saudi Arabia of financing the invasion from neighbouring Sudan and Zaire in a bid to restore Amin to power. Mr Allimadi also indicated that some of the 10,000 Tanzanian troops in Uganda since Amin's overthrow 18 months ago might be used against the invaders. It would be unreal if they weren't involved, he said.

The invasion was being led by two former Amin strongmen, diplomatic sources here indicated. They were named as Isaac Lumago, promoted to army chief of staff for reportedly warning Ugandan authorities about the Israeli commando raid on Entebbe Airport, and Brigadier-General Moses Ali, an ex-finance minister said to have diverted substantial sums of money to finance the invasion.

Military Commission's View

LD131748 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 13 Oct 80 EA

[Text] The military commission says the security situation in Arua district is returning to normal and there is no cause for alarm. The chairman of the Military Commission will address the nation tomorrow on the situation in the affected areas and the progress of registration of voters in the country in general.

Zaire's Denial of Involvement

AB121120 Kinshasa AZAP in French 0830 GMT 12 Oct 80

[Text] Kinshasa, 12 Oct (AZAP)--Following reports carried by the international news media and later broadcast by traditionally sensation-hungry foreign radios that rebel forces opposed to the Kampala Government and loyal to former President Idi Amin have infiltrated into Uganda by way of Zaire, the Executive Council has denied these tendentious and unfounded reports in a most categorical manner.

A spokesman for the Executive Council, who was interviewed by the Zairian press agency, recalled for the information of public and international opinion that Zaire's good-neighbor policy toward all its neighbors is such that it cannot serve as the base for subversion against any of them.

CAMEROON

AHIDJO PROTESTS AIRSPACE VIOLATION TO CHAD'S GOUKOUNI

AB120650 Paris AFP in English 1741 GMT 11 Oct 80

[Excerpt] Yaounde, 11 Oct (AFP)--President of Camerron Ahmadou Ahidjo today strongly protested to President Oueddei Goukouni of Chad over violation of his country's airspace by a plane which bombed the Chadian capital Ndjamena yesterday and Thursday. The unidentified jet bombed positions of forces loyal to rebel former Chadian Defence Minister Hissein Habre in the first air raids since the latest fighting broke out in Chad between forces of Mr Goukouni and Mr Habre seven months ago.

In a telegram to Mr. Goukouni, Mr. Ahidjo said that Cameroon reserves the right to take, on the internal front, measures to secure the defence of its airspace and, on the international front, to inform the appropriate organizations. The Cameroon president called on Mr. Goukouni--for the sake of preserving fraternal links between the two countries--to use his authority and to take every appropriate measure to halt these violations of Cameroon's airspace. The telegram said that the violations posed dangers for the town and inhabitants of Kousseri, which is opposite Ndjamena on the Cameroon side of the river Chari.

Mr. Ahidjo stressed in the telegram the strict neutrality observed by his country in the fratricidal Chadian conflict and Cameroon's desire to continue its aid to refugees from the fighting.

CHAD

GOUKOUNI, HABRE INVITED TO NEW TALKS IN LOME

AB131322 Paris AFP in English 1222 GMT 13 Oct 80

[Text] Lome, 13 Oct (AFP)--Sierra Leone President Siaka Stevens, this year's chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), was expected to arrive here later today for talks which observers said could be connected with a new Chadian peace plan.

According to informed sources here, Togolese President Gnassingbe Eyadema has again invited Chadian President Oueddei Goukouni and rebel Defence Minister Hissein Habre to come to Lome for talks aimed at ending the seven-month-old civil war in the landlocked west-central African state.

A previous peace initiative by General Eyadema in August ended in failure when only Mr Habre came to Lome. Togo is one of four countries on an OAU ad hoc committee on Chad.

REPORTAGE ON NDJAMENA FIGHTING, AIR ATTACKS

Goukouni Forces' Counterattack

AB101634 Paris AFP in English 1608 GMT 10 Oct 80

[Excerpt] Yaounde, 10 Oct (AFP)--Troops loyal to President Oueddei Goukouni today seemed to have regained the initiative in the battle for the capital, Ndjamena, following the offensive launched earlier this week by rebel Defence Minister Hissein Habre, according to reliable reports reaching Yaounde.

Informed sources here said that Mr Goukouni's People's Armed Force (FAP) had thrown Mr Habre's Armed Forces of the North (FAN) back across the perimeter of the airfield, to the north-west of the city. Mr Habre's forces broke through the airfield boundary last Tuesday, the second day of their latest offensive, after first overrunning the gendarmerie barracks to the north of the president's headquarters in Ndjamena's old European district. According to reports reaching Yaounde, FAP troops have also recaptured the barracks.

Second, Third Air Bombings

AB131206 Paris AFP in French 0630 GMT 13 Oct 80

[Excerpts] Ndjamena, 13 Oct (AFP)--At 0830 on Sunday, an unidentified jet aircraft again bombed the section of Ndjamena controlled by Hissein Habre's Northern Armed Forces.

This is the third time since last Thursday that jet aircraft have bombed the Chadian capital. On Sunday morning, after having flown over the small Cameroonian town of Kousseri, which faces Ndjamena across the Chari River, the plane headed for the southern part of Ndjamena, where it released two bombs over the Chagoua bridge sector, southwest of the Chadian capital.

That sector was the target of the first bombing last Thursday, but so far no casualties have been reported. On the other hand, Friday's bombing killed four people in the African sector held by the FAN, which has been fighting since 21 March against the forces of Queddei Goukouni, the president of the Transitional National Union Government, GUNT. An AFP special correspondent who was present that day in that particular sector of Ndjamena witnessed the bombings. The jet plane dropped bombs three times on Friday--at 0730, 0845 and 1010 local time.

The whitish grey jet aircraft, which flew at medium altitude, seemed bigger than a fighter, and its wings, which formed a very sharp V, were located toward the rear of the fuselage.

In a statement made after the bombing on Friday, Idriss Miskine, vice president of the Command Council of the Northern Armed Forces, said the bombings are living proof of foreign involvement in Chad. We stress the involvement of Libya in the air and land battle, he added.

Miskine also affirmed that conversations from the plane had been intercepted, and that they were in Russian and in Arabic and that some words in English and Spanish could also be heard.

Adoum Yacoub, Queddei Goukouni's permanent undersecretary, told AFP on Saturday that the flights were not connected with the GUNT. We do not know where they come from, he declared. We do not need to hide the means we use to crush the rebellion. The day we obtain those means [word indistinct] we will tell, he added.

On the other hand, violent fighting continued in Ndjamena, where heavy artillery has been used massively for a week. Observers say that 500 shells are fired every day by the two camps. Fighting was still raging on Sunday for control of the sector of the former French military base, the airport and the gendarmerie. The latter is almost totally controlled by the FAN, and Oueddei Goukouni's forces are resisting in the sector opposite the Central Bank.

Finally, contrary to certain reports, the ferry used by the GUNT's president in Farcha on the Chari, west of Ndjamena, was not destroyed and is working normally.

BRIEFS

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC DROUGHT--Bangui, 11 Oct (AFP)--The French Army has begun an operation to airlift 60 tons of foodstuffs and medicines to the isolated, famine-stricken Birao region in the remote northeast corner of the Central African Republic. The French toops, who have remained in the country since the French-backed coup ousted Emperor Bokassa last year, set up an advance base yesterday at Birao, 800 km (500 miles) from here. The region borders on Chad and Sudan. Two C-160 Transall cargo planes, two Puma helicopters and six Landrovers will be used to get the food--manioc and millet--to Birao and on to Amdafok, on the Sudanese frontier, and to Boromata, on the Chad frontier. The shortage of food was caused by locusts, an influx of refugees from the civil war in Chad and floods. [Paris AFP in English 0924 GMT 11 Oct 80]